



# THE NEW TEMPLE SHAKESPEARE



Edited by M. R. Ridley, M.A.



# KING HENRY VI SECOND PART

by William Shakespeare



London: J. M. DENT & SONS LTD.

New York: E. P. DUTTON & CO. INC.

*All rights reserved  
Printed in Great Britain  
by Turnbull & Spears at Edinburgh  
and decorated by  
Eric Gill  
for  
J. M. Dent & Sons Ltd.  
Aldine House Bedford St. London  
First Published in this edition 1936*

## Editor's General Note

**The Text.** The editor has kept before him the aim of presenting to the modern reader the nearest possible approximation to what Shakespeare actually wrote. The text is therefore conservative, and is based on the earliest reliable printed text. But to avoid distraction (*a*) the spelling is modernised, and (*b*) a limited number of universally accepted emendations is admitted without comment. Where a Quarto text exists as well as the First Folio the passages which occur only in the Quarto are enclosed in square brackets [ ] and those which occur only in the Folio in brace brackets { }.

**Scene Division.** The rapid continuity of the Elizabethan curtainless production is lost by the 'traditional' scene divisions. Where there is an essential difference of place these scene divisions are retained. Where on the other hand the change of place is insignificant the scene division is indicated only by a space on the page. For ease of reference, however, the 'traditional' division is retained at the head of the page and in line numbering.

**Notes.** Passages on which there are notes are indicated by a † in the margin.

**Punctuation** adheres more closely than has been usual to the 'Elizabethan' punctuation of the early texts. It is often therefore more indicative of the way in which the lines were to be delivered than of their syntactical construction.

**Glossaries** are arranged on a somewhat novel principle, not alphabetically, but in the order in which the words or phrases occur. The editor is much indebted to Mr J. N. Bryson for his collaboration in the preparation of the glossaries.



## Preface .

**The Text.** The textual problem presented by the second and third parts of *Henry VI* is quite different from that presented by the first part, and greatly more complex. In 1594 appeared a Quarto, printed by Thomas Creed for Thomas Millington, entitled: ‘The First part of the Contentions betwixt the two famous Houses of Yorke and Lancaster, with the death of the good Duke Humphrey: And the banishment and death of the Duke of Suffolke, and the Tragical end of the proud Cardinall of Winchester, with the notable Rebellion of Iacke Cade: *And the Duke of Yorke's first claime unto the Crowne.*’ And in the next year appeared another Quarto, from the same publisher, ‘The true Tragedie of Richard Duke of Yorke; and the death of good King Henrie the Sixt, with the whole contention betweene the two Houses Lancaster and Yorke, as it was sundrie times acted by the Right Honourable the Earle of Pembroke his seruants.’ That there is some relation between these two quartos and the second and third parts of *Henry VI* as printed in the Folio is obvious, but what that relation is has been the subject of vigorous and often acrimonious dispute. One view (which may be called the ‘foundation-play’ view) is represented by Grant White’s theory that ‘the First Part of the Contentions, The True Tragedy—and, probably, an early form of the First Part of *King Henry the Sixth* unknown to us, were written by Marlowe, Greene, and Shakespeare (and perhaps Peele) together, not improbably as co-labourers for the company known as the Earl of Pembroke’s servants, soon after the arrival of Shakespeare in London; and that he, in taking passages, and sometimes whole scenes, from those plays,

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

for his *King Henry the Sixth*, did little more than to reclaim his own.<sup>1</sup> The other view (which may be called the ‘Bad-Quarto’ view) was summarised (not without courage, considering the trend of Shakespearean scholarship of his time) by Halliwell-Phillipps: ‘The theory which best agrees with the positive evidences is that which concedes the authorship of the three plays [1. 2. 3. *Henry VI*] to Shakespeare, their production to the year 1592, and the quarto editions of the Second and Third Parts as vamped, imperfect, and blundering versions of the poet’s own original dramas.’ This view was handled by Furnivall in the best manner of robustious controversy. ‘This,’ said Furnivall, ‘is surely a refuge for the brain-destitute. And if any want-wit can bring what he is pleased to call his mind, to accept for a time this notion of the authorship of *The Contention* and *True Tragedy*, he must be left to grow out of it.’ But in 1929 Professor Alexander, in a most able study of the problem,<sup>2</sup> with considerably more urbanity than Furnivall, though with an equal conviction of the destitution of brain in the opposite camp, raised the ‘Bad-Quarto’ view to something near a certainty. I should hesitate to say that Professor Alexander has proved his point, since he suffers, I think, from a tendency to assume as a premise in his argument the very conclusion which by the argument he is trying to prove,<sup>2</sup> and he does not seem to me wholly convincing (nor indeed himself wholly at ease) in his treatment of certain

<sup>1</sup> *Shakespeare’s Henry VI and Richard III*

<sup>2</sup> For example, quite early in the argument we find the statement with regard to the Quarto that ‘Warwick’s part all through is outstanding for its accuracy’. We have no right to speak of accuracy unless we know in advance that F is the original from which Q was taken. The observable facts are simply that there is a close degree of correspondence between the part of Warwick as given in Q and the same part as given in F, from which, taken in isolation, we might just as legitimately argue that F was an ‘accurate’ reproduction of Q.

minor issues.<sup>1</sup> But he has at any rate cleared the ground of a deal of lumber of misinterpretation, and set out with great clarity the evidence which the reader can handle for himself, even when he thinks that Professor Alexander's own handling is a trifle over-confident. To me the evidence is, on the main issue, and at any rate with regard to Part 2, entirely convincing. There can, I think, be little doubt that *The Contention* is a 'reported text'<sup>2</sup> (using the term in its widest sense) of an original which is represented with at least a high degree of completeness and fidelity by the Folio. Nor can I see any necessity for assuming either that Shakespeare was rehandling material provided by contemporary dramatists (quite apart from the improbability, well argued by Professor Alexander, of his doing anything of the kind), or that he had a collaborator. Much of the supposed 'evidence' of parallels is disposed of the moment we accept the theory of a 'reported text,' and for the rest we do well to remember a wise remark of Sir Edmund Chambers, 'I do not think we have adequate criteria for distinguishing with any assurance from the style of his contemporaries that of a young writer still under their influence.' The second and third parts of

<sup>1</sup> For example, the odd coincidence in certain stage-directions between the two texts, a coincidence not too easy to account for, and the assumption of a transcript being by some accident available for a few small portions of Q. As also the cavalier treatment of Jaggard's reprint of 1619, of which Professor Alexander says, 'That Jaggard had no manuscript at his disposal is a fair inference from the corrections he made.' If corrections is understood in its narrowest sense this may be true, but there are two remarkable additions in the second scene of *The Contention*, one of a line and a half and one of three lines and a half, both of which correspond (though roughly) to F, and which it is hard to suppose that Jaggard or Jaggard's compositor inserted out of his head.

<sup>2</sup> A 'reported' text in the widest sense need not be one constructed from a shorthand report, it may be one constructed by memorisation, with or without the assistance of one or more of the actors (in this case, according to Alexander, the actor who played Warwick and the actor who doubled Suffolk and Clifford)

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

the play seem to me here on a different plane from the first part. In the first part I agree with Professor Alexander that it is absurd to suppose that because in a historical play different sections deal with different blocks of historical events there is even a *prima facie* probability that those different blocks were handled by different writers: but I am also aware of jolts, of a kind of geological ‘fault’ in the strata, that make it hard for me to suppose that the whole play was written by one writer, unless at very different times. But the personal equation is the poorest sort of evidence, and in any case I think that few readers will be aware of any such ‘faults’ in the second and third parts. I still regard the Folio as more of an ‘edited’ text than I think Professor Alexander would be prepared to admit (though I should take the ‘editing,’ if it occurred, as evidence rather of Heminge and Condell’s piety than their dishonesty), and I am prepared therefore to believe that the Folio text has been somewhat ‘improved’ from its original. And for this reason, and as a matter of interest, I have given a few of the Q versions, whether in the text or the notes.<sup>1</sup> But in the upshot it seems to me clear that the editor of such an edition as this need concern himself and his readers only with the Folio text; and that both he and they can with clear consciences assume that in dealing with that text they are dealing with Shakespeare rather than with a committee.

I have here given only a conclusion. Any reader who wishes to pursue the topic, which is of the highest interest for the student of the ‘determination of Shakespeare’s text’ but of less interest for the reader of Shakespeare, must be referred to Professor Alexander’s study, and also to the Sir Edmund Chambers’ *William Shakespeare*,

<sup>1</sup> Where a passage in brace brackets { } is followed immediately by one in square brackets, that, in this play, is no more than a method of indicating the extent of the passage to which the Q parallel is being given.

i. 277-93, who, though accepting the 'reported text' theory in the main, raises some very pertinent problems.

Nor have I entered into the reasons which make me less certain of Professor Alexander's conclusions with regard to Part 3 than with regard to Part 2. To state them at all adequately would require a detailed examination of the available evidence quite beyond the scope of such a preface as this. Very briefly, the *True Tragedy*, as a whole, is much closer to F than *The Contention* is, and there are such long passages where the resemblance amounts so nearly to identity that one begins to think that the reporting—if it was reporting—must have been of uncommon accuracy, and to harbour an uneasy suspicion that for at any rate a good deal of the play there may have been a common MS. original. That is, if the *True Tragedy* stood alone the 'reported text' view would be, I think, less easy to substantiate. But, granted a certain antecedent probability that the text of both Quartos was arrived at by the same means, I think it more than likely that Professor Alexander is right about both.)

**Date of Composition.** One can only say, on grounds both of general probability and of style, later than Part 1, and not much later.

**Source.** Again, as for Part 1, Holinshed (Halle) in the first place. There are traces of indebtedness to Fabian, Grafton, and Stowe. (See Boswell-Stone, *Shakespeare's Holinshed*)

**Duration of Action.** For the second part Daniel gives fourteen days with intervals suggesting a period of two years. The historic time is 1445-1455.

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

### Criticism.

*Hawitt.*—During the time of the civil wars of York and Lancaster, England was a perfect bear-garden, and Shakespeare has given us a very lively picture of the scene. The three parts of *Henry VI* convey a picture of very little else: and are inferior to the other historical plays. They have brilliant passages: but the general groundwork is comparatively poor and meagre, the style ‘flat and unraised.’

*Dowden.*—Among his ‘wolphish Earls’ Henry is in constant terror, not of being himself torn to pieces, but of their flying at one another’s throats. Violent scenes, disturbing the cloistral peace which it would please him to see reign throughout the universe, are hateful and terrible to Henry. He rides out hawking with his Queen and Suffolk, the Cardinal and Gloster; some of the riders hardly able for an hour to conceal their emulation and their hate. Henry takes a languid interest in the sport, but all occasions supply food for his contemplative piety; he suffers from a certain incontinence of devout feeling, and now the falcons set him moralising. A moment after, and the peers, with Margaret among them, are bandying furious words. Henry’s anguish is extreme, but he hopes that something may be done by a few moral reflections suitable to the occasion.

KING HENRY VI  
SECOND PART

## DRAMATIS PERSONÆ

KING HENRY *the Sixth.*

HUMPHREY, *Duke of Gloucester, his uncle.*

CARDINAL BEAUFORT, *Bishop of Winchester, great-uncle to the King.*

RICHARD PLANTAGENET, *Duke of York.*

EDWARD and RICHARD, *his sons.*

DUKE OF SOMERSET.

DUKE OF SUFFOLK.

DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM.

LORD CLIFFORD

YOUNG CLIFFORD, *his son.*

EARL OF SALISBURY.

EARL OF WARWICK.

LORD SCALES.

LORD SAY.

SIR HUMPHREY STAFFORD, and WILLIAM STAFFORD, *his brother.*

SIR JOHN STANLEY.

VAUX.

MATTHEW GOFFE.

A Sea-Captain, Master, and Master's-Mate, and WALTER WHITMORE.

Two Gentlemen, *prisoners with Suffolk.*

JOHN HUME and JOHN SOUTHWELL, *priests.*

BOLINGBROKE, *a conjurer.* ALEXANDER IDEN, *a Kentish gentleman.*

THOMAS HORNER, *an armourer.* JACK CADE, *a rebel.*

Clerk of Chatham.

PETER, *his man.*

SIMPCOX, *an impostor.*

Mayor of Saint Alban's.

GEORGE BEVIS, JOHN HOLLAND, DICK the butcher, SMITH the weaver,

“ MICHAEL, &c., *followers of Cade.*

Two Murderers.

MARGARET, *Queen to King Henry.* MARGARET JOURDAIN, *a witch.*

ELEANOR, *Duchess of Gloucester.* Wife to Simpcox.

Lords, Ladies, and Attendants, Petitioners, Aldermen, a Herald, a

Beadle, Sheriff, and Officers, Citizens, 'Prentices, Falconers,

Guards, Soldiers, Messengers, &c.

A Spirit.

SCENE: *England.*

THE SECOND PART OF  
KING HENRY VI

Act First

SCENE I

*London. The palace*

*Flourish of trumpets: then hautboys. Enter, the King, Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, Salisbury, Warwick, and Cardinal Beaufort, on the one side, The Queen, Suffolk, York, Somerset, and Buckingham, on the other*

*Suf.* As by your high imperial majesty  
I had in charge at my depart for France,  
As procurator to your excellence,  
To marry Princess Margaret for your grace,  
So, in the famous ancient city Tours,  
In presence of the Kings of France and Sicil,  
The Dukes of Orleans, Calaber, Bretagne and Alençon,  
Seven earls, twelve barons, and twenty reverend  
    bishops,  
I have perform'd my task and was espous'd,  
And humbly now upon my bended knee,

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

In sight of England, and her lordly peers,  
Deliver up my title in the queen  
To your most gracious hands, that are the substance  
Of that great shadow I did represent ;  
The happiest gift, that ever marquess gave,  
The fairest queen, that ever king receiv'd.

*King* Suffolk, arise. Welcome, Queen Margaret :

I can express no kinder sign of love  
Than this kind kiss. O Lord, that lends me life,  
Lend me a heart replete with thankfulness !  
For Thou hast given me in this beauteous face  
A world of earthly blessings to my soul,  
If sympathy of love unite our thoughts.

*Mar.* Great King of England, and my gracious lord,  
The mutual conference that my mind hath had,  
By day, by night, waking, and in my dreams,  
In courtly company, or at my beads,  
With you, mine alder-liefest sovereign,  
Makes me the bolder to salute my king  
With ruder terms, such as my wit affords,  
And over-joy of heart doth minister.

*King.* Her sight did ravish, but her grace in speech,  
Her words y-clad with wisdom's majesty,  
Makes me from wondering fall to weeping joys,  
Such is the fulness of my heart's content.

Lords, with one cheerful voice, welcome my love.

All. (*kneeling*) Long live Queen Margaret, England's  
happiness!

Mar. We thank you all.

*Flourish*

Sif. My lord protector, so it please your grace,

Here are the articles of contracted peace

40

Between our sovereign and the French king Charles,  
For eighteen months concluded by consent.

Glo. (*reads*) 'Imprimis, It is agreed between the French  
king Charles, and William de la Pole Marquess of  
Suffolk, ambassador for Henry King of England,  
that the said Henry shall espouse the Lady Margaret,  
daughter unto Reignier King of Naples, Sicilia, and  
Jerusalem, and crown her Queen of England, ere  
the thirtieth of May next ensuing. Item, that the  
duchy of Anjou, and the county of Maine, shall be  
released and deliveied to the king her father—'

[*Lets the paper fall*]

King.Uncle, how now?

Glo. Pardon me, gracious lord,  
Some sudden qualm hath struck me at the heart,  
And dimm'd mine eyes, that I can read no further.

King.Uncle of Winchester, I pray read on.

Car. (*reads*) 'Item, It is further agreed between them,  
that the duchies of Anjou and Maine shall be released

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

and delivered over to the king her father, and she sent over of the King of England's own proper cost and charges, without having any dowry.' 60

*King.* They please us well. Lord marquess, kneel down.

We here create thee the first duke of Suffolk,  
And gird thee with the sword. Cousin of York,  
We here discharge your grace from being regent  
I' the parts of France, till term of eighteen months  
Be full expir'd. Thanks, uncle Winchester,  
Gloucester, York, Buckingham, Somerset,  
Salisbury, and Warwick ;  
We thank you all for this great favour done,  
In entertainment to my princely queen. 70  
Come, let us in, and with all speed provide  
To see her coronation be perform'd.

*Exeunt King, Queen, and Suffolk, [and Duke  
Humphrey stays all the rest]*

*Glo.* Brave peers of England, pillars of the state,  
To you Duke Humphrey must unload his grief,  
Your grief, the common grief of all the land.  
What ? did my brother Henry spend his youth,  
His valour, coin, and people, in the wars ?  
Did he so often lodge in open field,  
In winter's cold, and summer's parching heat,  
To conquer France, his true inheritance ? 80

And did my brother Bedford toil his wits,  
 To keep by policy what Henry got :  
 Have you yourselves, Somerset, Buckingham,  
 Brave York, Salisbury, and victorious Warwick,  
 Receiv'd deep scars in France and Normandy :  
 Or hath mine uncle Beaufort, and myself,  
 With all the learned council of the realm,  
 Studied so long, sat in the council-house  
 Early and late, debating to and fro  
 How France and Frenchmen might be kept in awe,      90  
 And had his highness in his infancy  
 Crowned in Paris in despite of foes :  
 And shall these labours and these honours die ?  
 Shall Henry's conquest, Bedford's vigilance,  
 Your deeds of war, and all our counsel die ?  
 O peers of England, shameful is this league,  
 Fatal this marriage, cancelling your fame,  
 Blotting your names from books of memory,  
 Razing the characters of your renown,  
 Defacing monuments of conquer'd France,      100  
 Undoing all as all had never been !

*Car.* Nephew, what means this passionate discourse,  
 This peroration with such circumstance ?  
 For France, 'tis ours ; and we will keep it still.  
*Glo.* Ay, uncle, we will keep it, if we can ;

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

But now it is impossible we should :  
Suffolk, the new-made duke that rules the roast,  
Hath given the duchy of Anjou and Maine  
Unto the poor King Reignier, whose large style  
Agrees not with the leanness of his purse.

110

*Sal.* Now, by the death of Him that died for all,  
These counties were the keys of Normandy.  
But wherefore weeps Warwick, my valiant son ?

*War.* For grief that they are past recovery :  
For were there hope to conquer them again,  
My sword should shed hot blood, mine eyes no tears.  
Anjou and Maine ? myself did win them both ;  
Those provinces these arms of mine did conquer,  
And are the cities, that I got with wounds,  
Deliver'd up again with peaceful words ?  
Mort Dieu !

120

*Yo.* For Suffolk's duke, may he be suffocate,  
That dims the honour of this warlike isle !  
France should have torn and rent my very heart,  
Before I would have yielded to this league.  
I never read but England's kings have had  
Large sums of gold and dowries with their wives,  
And our King Henry gives away his own,  
To match with her that brings no vantages.

*Glo.* A proper jest, and never heard before,

130

That Suffolk should demand a whole fifteenth,  
 For costs and charges in transporting her !  
 She should have stay'd in France, and starv'd in  
 France

Before—

*Car.* My Lord of Gloucester, now ye grow too hot ;  
 It was the pleasure of my lord the king.

*Glo.* My lord of Winchester, I know your mind ;  
 'Tis not my speeches that you do mislike ;  
 But 'tis my presence that doth trouble ye  
 Rancour will out ; proud prelate, in thy face                   140  
 I see thy fury : if I longer stay,  
 We shall begin our ancient bickerings.  
 Lordings, farewell ; and say, when I am gone,  
 I prophesied France will be lost ere long.                   Exit

*Car.* So, there goes our protector in a rage.  
 'Tis known to you he is mine enemy,  
 Nay, more, an enemy unto you all,  
 And no great friend, I fear me, to the king.  
 Consider, lords, he is the next of blood,  
 And heir apparent to the English crown :                   150  
 Had Henry got an empire by his marriage,  
 And all the wealthy kingdoms of the west,  
 There's reason he should be displeas'd at it.  
 Look to it, lords ; let not his smoothing words

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

Bewitch your hearts ; be wise and circumspect.  
What though the common people favour him,  
Calling him ‘ Humphrey, the good Duke of Gloucester,’  
Clapping their hands, and crying with loud voice,  
‘ Jesu maintain your royal excellence ! ’  
With ‘ God preserve the good Duke Humphrey ! ’ 160  
I fear me, lords, for all this flattering gloss,  
He will be found a dangerous protector.

*Buc.* Why should he then protect our sovereign,

He being of age to govern of himself ?

Cousin of Somerset, join you with me,

And all together, with the Duke of Suffolk,

We ’ll quickly hoise Duke Humphrey from his seat.

*Car.* This weighty business will not brook delay,

I ’ll to the Duke of Suffolk presently.

*Exit*

*Som.* Cousin of Buckingham, though Humphrey’s pride 170

And greatness of his place be grief to us,

Yet let us watch the haughty cardinal :

His insolence is more intolerable

Than all the princes in the land beside :

If Gloucester be displac’d, he ’ll be protector.

*Buc.* Or thou or I, Somerset, will be protector.

Despite Duke Humphrey, or the cardinal.

*Exeunt Buckingham and Somerset*

*Sal.* Pride went before, ambition follows him.

While these do labour for their own preferment,  
Behoves it us to labour for the realm.

180

I never saw but Humphrey Duke of Gloucester  
Did bear him like a noble gentleman.  
Oft have I seen the haughty cardinal,  
More like a soldier than a man o' the church  
As stout and proud as he were lord of all,  
Swear like a ruffian, and demean himself  
Unlike the ruler of a commonweal.

Warwick, my son, the comfort of my age,  
Thy deeds, thy plainness, and thy housekeeping,  
Hath won the greatest favour of the commons.

190

Excepting none but good Duke Humphrey :  
And, brother York, thy acts in Ireland,  
In bringing them to civil discipline,  
Thy late exploits done in the heart of France,  
When thou wert regent for our sovereign,  
Have made thee fear'd and honour'd of the people ;  
Join we together for the public good,  
In what we can, to bridle and suppress  
The pride of Suffolk and the cardinal,  
With Somerset's and Buckingham's ambition ;

200

And, as we may, cherish Duke Humphrey's deeds,  
While they do tend the profit of the land.

*War.* So God help Warwick, as he loves the land,

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

And common profit of his country !

*Yo.* (*aside*) And so says York, for he hath greatest cause.

*Sal.* Then let's make haste away, and look unto the main.

*War.* Unto the main ! O father, Maine is lost :

That Maine which by main force Warwick did win,

And would have kept, so long as breath did last !

Main chance, father, you meant ; but I meant Maine, 210

Which I will win from France, or else be slain

*Exeunt Warwick and Salisbury*

*Yo.* Anjou and Maine are given to the French,

Paris is lost, the state of Normandy

Stands on a tickle point, now they are gone :

Suffolk concluded on the articles,

The peers agreed, and Henry was well pleas'd,

To change two dukedoms for a duke's fair daughe<sup>t</sup>ri.

I cannot blame them all . what is 't to them ?

'Tis thine they give away, and not their own.

Pirates may make cheap pennyworths of their pillage,

And purchase friends, and give to courtezans,

221

Still revelling like lords till all be gone ;

While 's the silly owner of the goods

Weeps over them, and wrings his hapless hands,

And shakes his head, and trembling stands aloof,

While all is shar'd, and all is borne away,

Ready to starve, and dare not touch his own :

So York must sit, and fret, and bite his tongue,  
While his own lands are bargain'd for and sold.

Methinks the realms of England, France, and Ireland 230  
Bear that proportion to my flesh and blood

As did the fatal brand Althaea burn'd

†

Unto the prince's heart of Calydon.

Anjou and Maine both given unto the French ?

Cold news for me ; for I had hope of France,  
Even as I have of fertile England's soil.

A day will come when York shall claim his own,  
And therefore I will take the Nevils' parts,

And make a show of love to proud Duke Humphrey,  
And when I spy advantage, claim the crown, 240

For that 's the golden mark I seek to hit :

Nor shall proud Lancaster usurp my right,

Nor hold the sceptre in his childish fist,

Nor wear the diadem upon his head,

Whose church-like humours fits not for a crown.

Then, York, be still awhile, till time do serve :

Watch thou, and wake when others be asleep,

To pry into the secrets of the state,

Till Henry, surfeiting in joys of love,

With his new bride and England's dear-bought queen,

And Humphrey with the peers be fall'n at jars .

251

Then will I raise aloft the milk-white rose,

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

With whose sweet smell the air shall be perfum'd,  
And in my standard bear the arms of York,  
To grapple with the house of Lancaster,  
And, force perforce, I 'll make him yield the crown,  
Whose bookish rule hath pull'd fair England down.

*Exit*

### SCENE II

*The Duke of Gloucester's house*

*Enter Duke Humphrey and his wife Eleanor*

*E. Why droops my lord like over-ripen'd corn,  
Hanging the head at Ceres' plenteous load ?  
Why doth the great Duke Humphrey knit his brows,  
As frowning at the favours of the world ?  
Why are thine eyes fix'd to the sullen earth,  
Gazing on that which seems to dim thy sight ?  
What seest thou there ? King Henry's diadem,  
Enchas'd with all the honours of the world ?  
If so, gaze on, and grovel on thy face,  
Until thy head be circled with the same.  
Put forth thy hand, reach at the glorious gold.  
What, is 't too short ? I 'll lengthen it with mine ;  
And, having both together heav'd it up,  
We 'll both together lift our heads to heaven,*

10

And never more abase our sight so low

As to vouchsafe one glance unto the ground.

*Glo.* O Nell, sweet Nell, if thou dost love thy lord,

Banish the canker of ambitious thoughts.

And may that thought, when I imagine ill

Against my king and nephew, virtuous Henry,

Be my last breathing in this mortal world !

My troublous dreams this night doth make me sad

*Ele.* What dream'd my lord ? tell me, and I'll requite it  
With sweet rehearsal of my morning's dream.

*Glo.* Methought this staff, mine office-badge in court,

Was broke in twain ; by whom, I have forgot,

But, as I think, it was by the cardinal ;

And on the pieces of the broken wand

Were plac'd the heads of Edmund Duke of Somerset,

And William de la Pole, first Duke of Suffolk.

This was my dream : what it doth bode, God knows.

*Ele.* Tut, this was nothing but an argument,

That he that breaks a stick of Gloucester's grove

Shall lose his head for his presumption.

But list to me, my Humphrey, my sweet duke :

Methought, I sat in seat of majesty,

In the cathedral church of Westminster,

And in that chair where kings and queens are crown'd ;

Where Henry and dame Margaret kneel'd to me,

KING HENRY VI—PART II

And on my head did set the diadem.

40

*Glo.* Nay, Eleanor, then must I chide outright :  
Presumptuous dame, ill-nurtur'd Eleanor,  
Art thou not second woman in the realm ?  
And the protector's wife, belov'd of him ?  
Hast thou not worldly pleasure at command,  
Above the reach or compass of thy thought ?  
And wilt thou still be hammering treachery,  
To tumble down thy husband, and thyself,  
From top of honour, to disgrace's feet ?

Away froin me, and let me hear no more !

50

*Ele.* What, what, my lord ? are you so choleric  
With Eleanor, for telling but her dream ?  
Next time I'll keep my dreams unto myself,  
And not be check'd.

*Glo.* Nay, be not angry, I am pleas'd again

*Enter Messenger*

*Mes.* My lord protector, 'tis his highness' pleasure  
You do prepare to ride unto Saint Alban's,  
Whereas the king and queen do mean to hawk.

*Glo.* I go. Come, Nell, thou wilt ride with us ?

*Ele.* Yes, my good lord, I'll follow presently.

60

*Exeunt Gloucester and Messenger*

Follow I must, I cannot go before,

†

While Gloucester bears this base and humble mind.

Were I a man, a duke, and next of blood,  
 I would remove these tedious stumbling-blocks,  
 And smooth my way upon their headless necks;  
 And, being a woman, I will not be slack  
 To play my part in Fortune's pageant.  
 Where are you there? Sir John! nay, fear not, man,  
 We are alone, here's none but thee and I.

*Enter Hume*

- Hu.* Jesus preserve your royal majesty! 70  
*Ele.* What say'st thou? majesty! I am but grace.  
*Hu.* But, by the grace of God, and Hume's advice,  
 Your grace's title shall be multiplied.  
*Ele.* What say'st thou, man? hast thou as yet conferr'd  
 With Margery Jourdain, the cunning witch,  
 With Roger Bolingbroke, the conjurer?  
 And will they undertake to do me good?  
*Hu.* This they have promised, to show your highness  
 A spirit rais'd from depth of under-ground,  
 That shall make answer to such questions 80  
 As by your grace shall be propounded him.  
*Ele.* {It is enough, I'll think upon the questions: +  
 When from Saint Alban's we do make return,  
 We'll see these things effected to the full.  
 Here, Hume, take this reward; make merry, man,  
 With thy confederates in this weighty cause.} *Exit*

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

[Thanks, good Sir John : some two days hence, I guess,  
Will fit our time ; then see that they be here ;  
For now the king is riding to St Alban's,  
And all the dukes and earls along with him :  
When they be gone, then safely they may come,  
And on the backside of my orchard here  
There cast their spells in silence of the night,  
And so resolve us of the thing we wish,  
Till when, drink that for my sake ; and so farewell.]

Hn. Hume must make merry with the duchess' gold ;  
Marry, and shall. But, how now, Sir John Hume ?  
Seal up your lips, and give no words but mum :  
The business asketh silent secrecy.

90

Dame Eleanor gives gold, to bring the witch :  
Gold cannot come amiss, were she a devil.  
Yet have I gold flies from another coast ;  
I dare not say, from the rich cardinal,  
And from the great and new-made Duke of Suffolk ;  
Yet I do find it so ; for, to be plain,  
They (knowing Dame Eleanor's aspiring humour)  
Have hired me to undermine the duchess,  
And buzz these conjurations in her brain.

They say 'A crafty knave does need no broker ;'  
Yet am I Suffolk and the cardinal's broker.  
Hume, if you take not heed, you shall go near

100

To call them both a pair of crafty knaves.  
Well, so it stands ; and thus, I fear, at last  
Hume's knavery will be the duchess' wreck,  
And her attainture will be Humphrey's fall :  
Sort how it will, I shall have gold for all.      *Exit*

SCENE III

*The palace*

*Enter three or four Petitioners, Peter, the Armourer's man, being one*

- 1.P. My masters, let's stand close : my lord protector will come this way by and by, and then we may deliver our supplications in the quill.
- 2.P. Marry, the Lord protect him, for he 's a good man, Jesu bless him !

*Enter Suffolk and Queen*

- Pet. Here a' comes, methinks, and the queen with him.  
I 'll be the first, sure.

- 2.P. Come back, fool, this is the Duke of Suffolk, and not my lord protector.

Suf How now, fellow ? wouldst any thing with me ?      10

- 1.P. I pray, my lord, pardon me, I took ye for my lord protector.

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

*Mar.* (*reading*) ‘To my Lord Protector?’ Are your supplications to his lordship? Let me see them: what is thine?

1 *P.* Mine is, an’t please your grace, against John Goodman, my lord cardinal’s man for keeping my house, and lands, and wife and all, from me

*Suf.* Thy wife too? that’s some wrong, indeed. What’s yours? What’s here? (*reads*) ‘Against the Duke of Suffolk, for enclosing the commons of Melford.’ How now, sir knave?

2 *P.* Alas, sir, I am but a poor petitioner of our whole township.

*Pet.* (*giving his petition*) Against my master, Thomas Horner, for saying that the Duke of York was rightful heir to the crown.

*Mar.* What say’st thou? did the Duke of York say he was rightful heir to the crown?

*Pet.* That my master was? no, forsooth: my master said that he was, and that the king was an usurper.

*Suf.* Who is there? (*enter Servant.*) Take this fellow in, and send for his master with a pursuivant presently: we’ll hear more of your matter before the king.

*Exit Servant with Peter*

*Mar.* And as for you, that love to be protected  
Under the wings of our protector’s grace,

Begin your suits anew, and sue to him.

*Tears the supplications*

Away, base cullions ! Suffolk, let them go.

All. Come, let 's be gone.

*Exeunt*

Mar My Lord of Suffolk, say, is this the guise,

40

Is this the fashions in the court of England ?

Is this the government of Britain's isle ?

And this the royalty of Albion's king ?

What, shall King Henry be a pupil still,

Under the surly Gloucester's governance ?

Am I a queen in title and in style,

And must be made a subject to a duke ?

I tell thee, Pole, when in the city Tours

Thou ran'st a tilt in honour of my love,

And stol'st away the ladies' hearts of France,

50

I thought King Henry had resembled thee,

In courage, courtship and proportion :

But all his mind is bent to holiness,

To number Ave-Maries on his beads ;

His champions are the prophets and apostles;

His weapons holy saws of sacred wiit,

His study is his tilt-yard, and his loves

Are brazen images of canonized saints.

I would the college of the cardinals

Would choose him pope, and carry him to Rome,

60

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

And set the triple crown upon his head :

That were a state fit for his holiness.

*Suf.* Madam, be patient : as I was cause  
Your highness came to England, so will I  
In England work your grace's full content.

*Mar.* Beside the haughty protector, have we Beaufort,  
The imperious churchman, Somerset, Buckingham,  
And grumbling York ; and not the least of these  
But can do more in England than the king.

*Suf.* And he of these that can do most of all      70  
Cannot do more in England than the Nevils :  
Salisbury and Warwick are no simple peers.

*Mar.* Not all these lords do vex me half so much  
As that proud dame, the lord protector's wife.  
She sweeps it through the court with troops of ladies,  
More like an empress than Duke Humphrey's wife :  
Strangers in court do take her for the queen :  
She bears a duke's revenues on her back,  
And in her heart she scorns our poverty :  
Shall I not live to be aveng'd on her ?      80  
Contemptuous base-born callet as she is,  
She vaunted 'mongst her minions t' other day,  
The very train of her worst wearing gown  
Was better worth than all my father's lands,  
Till Suffolk gave two dukedoms for his daughter.

*Suf.* Madam, myself have lim'd a bush for her,  
 And plac'd a quire of such enticing birds,  
 That she will light to listen to the lays,  
 And never mount to trouble you again.

So let her rest : and, madam, list to me ;                           90  
 For I am bold to counsel you in this ;  
 Although we fancy not the cardinal,  
 Yet must we join with him and with the lords  
 Till we have brought Duke Humphrey in disgrace.  
 As for the Duke of York, this late complaint  
 Will make but little for his benefit.  
 So, one by one, we 'll weed them all at last,  
 And you yourself shall steer the happy helm.

*Sound a Sennet.* Enter the King, Duke Humphrey of Gloucester,  
 Cardinal Beaufort, Buckingham, York, Somerset, Salis-  
 bury, Warwick, and the Duchess of Gloucester

*King.* For my part, noble lords, I care not which,  
 Or Somerset, or York, all 's one to me.                           100

*Yo.* If York have ill demean'd himself in France,  
 Then let him be denay'd the regentship.

*Som.* If Somerset be unworthy of the place,  
 Let York be regent, I will yield to him.

*War.* Whether your grace be worthy, yea or no,  
 Dispute not that : York is the worthier.

*Car.* Ambitious Warwick, let thy betters speak.

KING HENRY VI—PART II

*War.* The cardinal's not my better in the field.

*Buc.* All in this presence are thy betters, Warwick.

*War.* Warwick may live to be the best of all.

110

*Sal.* Peace, son! and show some reason, Buckingham,  
Why Somerset should be preferr'd in this.

*Mar.* Because the king, forsooth, will have it so.

{*Glo.* Madam, the king is old enough himself

†

To give his censure: these are no women's matters.

*Mar.* If he be old enough, what needs your grace  
To be protector of his excellence? }

[*Glo.* Madam, our king is old enough himself

To give his answer without your consent.

*Mar.* If he be old enough, what needs your grace  
To be protector over him so long? ]

*Glo.* Madam, I am protector of the realm,  
And at his pleasure will resign my place.

*Suf.* Resign it then and leave thine insolence.

120

Since thou wert king—as who is king but thou?—

The commonwealth hath daily run to wreck,

The Dauphin hath prevail'd beyond the seas,

And all the peers and nobles of the realm

Have been as bondmen to thy sovereignty.

*Car.* The commons hast thou rack'd, the clergy's bags  
Are lank and lean with thy extortions.

*Som.* Thy sumptuous buildings, and thy wife's attire,

Have cost a mass of public treasury.

*Buc.* Thy cruelty in execution 130

Upon offenders hath exceeded law,  
And left thee to the mercy of the law.

*Mar.* Thy sale of offices and towns in France,

If they were known, as the suspect is great,  
Would make thee quickly hop without thy head.

*Exit Gloucester. The Queen drops her fan*

Give me my fan : what, minion, can ye not ?

*She gives the Duchess a box on the ear*

I cry you mercy, madam ; was it you ?

*Ele* Was 't I ? yea, I it was, proud Frenchwoman :  
Could I come near your beauty with my nails,  
I could set my ten commandments in your face. 140

*King.* Sweet aunt, be quiet, 'twas against her will.

*Ele.* Against her will, good king ? look to 't in time,  
She 'll hamper thee, and dandle thee like a baby :  
Though in this place most master wear no breeches, †  
She shall not strike Dame Eleanor unreveng'd. *Exit*

*Buc.* Lord cardinal, I will follow Eleanor,  
And listen after Humphrey, how he proceeds :  
She 's tickled now ; her fume needs no spurs, †  
She 'll gallop far enough to her destruction. *Exit*

*Re-enter Gloucester*

*Glo.* Now, lords, my choler being over-blown 150

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

With walking once about the quadrangle,  
I come to talk of commonwealth affairs.  
As ~~for~~ your spiteful false objections,  
Prove them, and I lie open to the law :  
But God in mercy so deal with my soul,  
As I in duty love my king and country !  
But, to the matter that we have in hand :  
I say, my sovereign, York is meetest man  
To be your regent in the realm of France.

*Suf.* Before we make election, give me leave  
To show some reason, of no little force,  
That York is most unmeet of any man.

160

*Yo.* I'll tell thee, Suffolk, why I am unmeet :  
First, for I cannot flatter thee in pride ;  
Next, if I be appointed for the place,  
My Lord of Somerset will keep me here,  
Without discharge, money, or furniture,  
Till France be won into the Dauphin's hands :  
Last time I danc'd attendance on his will  
Till Pāris was besieg'd, famish'd, and lost.

170

*War.* That can I witness, and a fouler fact  
Did never traitor in the land commit.

*Suf.* Peace, headstrong Warwick !

*War.* Image of pride, why should I hold my peace ?

*Enter Horner, the Armourer, and his man Peter, guarded*

*Suf.* Because here is a man accus'd of treason :

Pray God the Duke of York excuse himself !

*Yo.* Doth any one accuse York for a traitor ?

*King.* What mean'st thou, Suffolk ? tell me, what are these ?

*Suf.* Please it your majesty, this is the man

That doth accuse his master of high treason : 180

His words were these : that Richard, Duke of York,

Was rightful heir unto the English crown,

And that your majesty was an usurper.

*King.* Say, man, were these thy words ?

*Hor.* An 't shall please your majesty, I never said nor thought any such matter : God is my witness, I am falsely accus'd by the villain.

*Pet.* By these ten bones, my lords, he did speak them to me in the garret one night, as we were scouring my Lord of York's armour. 190

*Yo.* Base dunghill villain and mechanical,  
I'll have thy head for this thy traitor's speech.  
I do beseech your royal majesty,  
Let him have all the rigour of the law.

*Hor.* Alas, my lord, hang me, if ever I spake the words.  
My accuser is my 'prentice, and when I did correct him for his fault the other day, he did vow upon his knees he would be even with me : I have good

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

witness of this ; therefore I beseech your majesty,  
do not cast away an honest man for a villain's 200  
accusation.

*King.* Uncle, what shall we say to this in law ?

*Glo.* This doom, my lord, if I may judge :

Let Somerset be regent o'er the French,  
Because in York this breeds suspicion :  
And let these have a day appointed them  
For single combat, in convenient place,  
For he hath witness of his servant's malice :  
This is the law, and this Duke Humphrey's doom.

*Som.* I humbly thank your royal majesty.

210

*Hor.* And I accept the combat willingly.

*Pet.* Alas, my lord, I cannot fight ; for God's sake, pity  
my case. The spite of man prevaleth against me.  
O Lord, have mercy upon me ! I shall never be able  
to fight a blow. O Lord, my heart !

*Glo.* Sirrah, or you must fight, or else be hang'd.

*King.* Away with them to prison ; and the day of combat  
shall be the last of the next month. Come, Somerset,  
we'll see thee sent away.

*Flourish. Exeunt*

## SCENE IV

*Gloucester's garden*

*Enter Margery Jourdain, Hume, Southwell,  
and Bolingbroke*

*Hu.* Come, my masters, the duchess, I tell you, expects performance of your promises.

*Bol.* Master Hume, we are therefore provided: will her ladyship behold and hear our exorcisms?

*Hu.* Ay, what else? fear you not her courage

*Bol.* I have heard her reported to be a woman of an invincible spirit: but it shall be convenient, Master Hume, that you be by her aloft, while we be busy below; and so, I pray you, go in God's name, and leave us. (*exit Hume.*) Mother Jourdain, be you prostrate, and grovel on the earth; John Southwell, read you, and let us to our work. 10

*Enter Duchess aloft, Hume following*

*Ele.* Well said, my masters, and welcome all.

To this gear, the sooner the better.

*Bol.* Patience, good lady, wizards know their times: Deep night, dark night, the silent of the night, The time of night when Troy was set on fire, The time when screech-owls cry, and ban-dogs howl,

KING HENRY VI—PART II

And spirits walk, and ghosts break up their graves ;  
That time best fits the work we have in hand.  
Madam, sit you, and fear not : whom we raise,  
We will make fast within a hallow'd verge.

*Here they do the ceremonies belonging, and make  
the circle, Bolingbroke or Southwell reads,  
Conjuro te, &c. It thunders and lightens  
terribly ; then the Spirit riseth.*

*Spi.* Adsum.

*Jou.* Asmath,

By the eternal God, whose name and power  
Thou tremblest at, answer that I shall ask ;  
For till thou speak, thou shalt not pass from hence.

*Spi.* Ask what thou wilt. That I had said and done !

*Bol.* 'First of the king . what shall of him become ?'

*Reading out of a paper*

*Spi.* 'The duke yet lives that Henry shall depose ,  
But him outlive, and die a violent death.

*As the Spirit speaks, Southwell writes the answer*

*Bol.* 'What fates await the Duke of Suffolk ? '

*Spi.* By water shall he die, and take his end.

*Bol.* 'What shall befall the Duke of Somerset ? '

*Spi.* Let him shun castles ;

Safer shall he be upon the sandy plains  
Than where castles mounted stand.

Have done, for more I hardly can endure.

*Bol.* {Descend to darkness and the burning lake !

False fiend, avoid !

40

*Thunder and lightning. Exit Spirit}*

[Then down, I say, unto the damned pole,  
Where Pluto in his fiery wagon sits,  
Riding amidst the sing'd and parched smokes  
The road of Dytas by the river Styx ;  
There howl and burn for ever in those flames.  
Rise, Jourdain, rise, and stay thy charming spells :  
Sons, we are betray'd.]

*Enter the Duke of York and the Duke of Buckingham  
with their Guard and break in*

*Yo.* Lay hands upon these traitors and their trash.

Beldam, I think we watch'd you at an inch.

What, madam, are you there ? the king and common-  
weal

Are deeply indebted for this piece of pains ;

My lord protector will, I doubt it not,

See you well guerdon'd for these good deserts.

*Ele.* Not half so bad as thine to England's king, •

Injurious duke, that threatest where's no cause.

*Buc.* True, madam, none at all : what call you this ?

Away with them, let them be clapp'd up close,

And kept asunder. You, madam, shall with us.

50

KING HENRY VI—PART II

Stafford, take her to thee.

*Exeunt above Duchess and Hume, guarded*

We'll see your trinkets here all forthcoming.

All, away !

*Exeunt Guard with Jourdain, Southwell, &c*

Yo. Lord Buckingham, methinks you watch'd her well :

A pretty plot, well chosen to build upon !

Now, pray, my lord, let's see the devil's writ.

What have we here ?

*Reads*

'The duke yet lives, that Henry shall depose ;

But him o'live, and die a violent death.'

60

Why this is just

'Aio te, Æacida, Romanos vincere posse.'

†

Well, to the rest :

'Tell me, what fate awaits the Duke of Suffolk ?

By water shall he die, and take his end.

What shall betide the Duke of Somerset ?

Let him shun castles ;

Safer shall he be upon the sandy plains

Than where castles mounted stand.'

Come, come, my lords ;

70

These oracles are hardly attain'd,

And hardly understood.

The king is now in progress towards Saint Alban's,

With him the husband of this lovely lady :

Thither go these news, as fast as horse can carry them  
 A sorry breakfast for my lord protector.

*Buc* Your grace shall give me leave, my Lord of York,  
 To be the post, in hope of his reward.

*Yo.* At your pleasure, my good lord. Who's within  
 there, ho !

*Enter a Serving-man*

Invite my Lords of Salisbury and Warwick                    80  
 To sup with me to-morrow night    Away !   *Exeunt*

## Act Second

### SCENE I

*Saint Alban's*

*Enter the King, Queen, Gloucester, Cardinal, and Suffolk,  
 with Falconers halloing*

*Mar.* Believe me, lords, for flying at the brook,  
 I saw not better sport these seven years' day :  
 Yea, by your leave, the wind was very high,  
 And, ten to one, old Joan had not gone out.

*King.* But what a point, my lord, your falcon made,  
 And what a pitch she flew above the rest !

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

To see how God in all His creatures works !  
Yea, man and birds are fain of climbing high.

*Suf.* No marvel, an it like your majesty,  
My lord protector's hawks do tower so well ;      10  
They know their master loves to be aloft,  
And bears his thoughts above his falcon's pitch.

*Glo.* My lord, 'tis but a base ignoble mind  
That mounts no higher than a bird can soar.

*Car.* I thought as much ; he would be abcve the clouds.

*Glo.* Ay, my lord cardinal ? how think ycu by that ?  
Were it nōt good your grace could fly to heaven ?

*King.* The treasury of everlasting joy.

*Car* Thy heaven is on earth, thine eyes and thoughts  
Beat on a crown, the treasure of thy heart ;      20  
Pernicious protector, dangerous peer,  
That smooth'st it so with king and commonweal.

*Glo.* What, cardinal, is your priesthood grown peremptory ?  
Tantæne animis cælestibus iræ ?  
Churchmen so hot ? good uncle, hide such malice ,  
With sūch holiness can you do it ?

*Suf.* No malice, sir, no more than well becomes  
So good a quarrel and so bad a peer.

*Glo.* As who, my lord ?

*Suf.*                    Why, as you, my lord,  
An 't like your lordly lord-protectorship.      30

*Glo.* Why, Suffolk, England knows thine insolence.

*Mar.* And thy ambition, Gloucester.

*King.* I prithee, peace, good queen,

And whet not on these furious peers ;

For blessed are the peacemakers on earth.

*Car.* Let me be blessed for the peace I make

Against this proud protector with my sword !

*Glo.* (*aside to Car.*) Faith, holy uncle, would 'twere come  
to that !

*Car.* (*aside to Glo.*) Marry, when thou dar'st.

*Glo.* (*aside to Car.*) Make up no factious numbers for the  
matter ;

40

In thine own person answer thy abuse.

*Car.* (*aside to Glo.*) Ay, where thou dar'st not peep : an  
if thou dar'st,

This evening, on the east side of the grove.

*King.* How now, my lords ?

*Car.* Believe me, cousin Gloucester,  
Had not your man put up the fowl so suddenly,  
We had had more sport. (*aside to Glo.*) Come with  
thy two-hand sword.

*Glo.* True, uncle.

*Car.* (*aside to Glo.*) Are ye advis'd ? the east side of the  
grove.

*Glo.* (*aside to Car.*) Cardinal, I am with you.

KING HENRY VI—PART II

*King.* Why, how now, uncle Gloucester ?

*Glo.* Talking of hawking ; nothing else, my lord.

(*aside, to Car.*) Now, by God's mother, priest, I'll  
shave your crown for this,

Or all my fence shall fail.

*Car. (aside to Glo.)* Medice, te ipsum—

Protector, see to 't well, protect yourself.

*King.* The winds grow high, so do your stomachs, lords .

How irksome is this music to my heart !

When such strings jar, what hope of harmony ?

I pray, my lords, let me compound this strife.

*Enter a Townsman of Saint Alban's, crying ' A miracle ! '*

*Glo.* What means this noise ?

Fellow, what miracle dost thou proclaim ?

*Towns.* A miracle ! a miracle !

*Sif.* Come to the king, and tell him what miracle.

*Towns.* Forsooth, a blind man at Saint Alban's shiine,

Within this half-hour hath receiv'd his sight,

A man that ne'er saw in his life before.

*King.* Now, God be prais'd, that to believing souls

Gives light in darkness, comfort in despair !

*Enter the Mayor of Saint Alban's and his brethren, bearing*

*Simpcox, between two in a chair, Simpcox's Wife following*

*Car.* Here comes the townsmen, on procession,

To present your highness with the man.

*King.* Great is his comfort in this earthly vale, 70  
 Although by his sight his sin be multiplied.

*Glo.* Stand by, my masters, bring him near the king :  
 His highness' pleasure is to talk with him.

*King.* Good fellow, tell us here the circumstance,  
 That we for thee may glorify the Lord.  
 What, hast thou been long blind and now restor'd ?

*Sim.* Born blind, an 't please your grace.

*Wife.* Ay, indeed, was he.

*Suf.* What woman is this ?

*Wife.* His wife, an 't like your worship. 80

*Glo.* Hadst thou been his mother, thou couldst have better told.

*King.* Where wert thou born ?

*Sim.* At Berwick in the north, an 't like your grace.

*King.* Poor soul, God's goodness hath been great to thee :  
 Let never day nor night unhallow'd pass,  
 But still remember what the Lord hath done.

*Mar.* Tell me, good fellow, cam'st thou here by chance,  
 Or of devotion, to this holy shrine ?

*Sim.* God knows, of pure devotion, being call'd  
 A hundred times and oftener, in my sleep, 90  
 By good Saint Alban ; who said, ' Simcox, come,  
 Come, offer at my shrine, and I will help thee.'

*Wife.* Most true, forsooth ; and many time and oft

KING HENRY VI—PART II

Myself have heard a voice to call him so.

*Car.* What, art thou lame ?

*Sim.* Ay, God Almighty help me !

*Suf.* How cam'st thou so ?

*Sim.* A fall off of a tree.

*Wife.* A plum-tree, master.

*Glo.* How long hast thou been blind ?

*Sim.* O, born so, master.

*Glo.* What, and wouldest climb a tree ?

*Sim.* But that in all my life, when I was a youth.

*Wife.* Too true, and bought his climbing very dear. 100

*Glo.* Mass, thou lov'st plums well, that wouldest venture so.

*Sim.* Alas, good master, my wife desir'd some damsons,

And made me climb, with danger of my life.

*Glo.* A subtle knave ! but yet it shall not serve.

Let me see thine eyes : wink now, now open them :

In my opinion yet thou see'st not well.

*Sim.* Yes, master, clear as day, I thank God and Saint  
Alban.

*Glo.* Say'st thou me so ? What colour is this cloak of ?

*Sim.* Red, master, red as blood.

†

[*Glo.* And his cloak ?

*Sim.* Why, that's green.

*Glo.* And what colour's his hose ?

*Sim.* Yellow, master, yellow as gold.]

*Glo.* Why, that's well said. What colour is my gown 110  
of?

*Sim.* Black, forsooth, coal-black as jet.

*Kng.* Why, then, thou kno'wst what colour jet is of?

*Sif.* And yet, I think, jet did he never see.

*Glo.* But cloaks and gowns, before this day, a many.

*Wife.* Never before this day, in all his life

*Glo.* Tell me, sirrah, what's my name?

*Sim.* Alas, master, I know not.

*Glo.* What's his name?

*Sim.* I know not.

*Glo.* Nor his? 120

*Sim.* No, indeed, master.

*Glo.* What's thine own name?

*Sim.* Saunder Simpcox, an if it please you, master.

*Glo.* Then, Saunder, sit there, the lying'st knave in Christendom. If thou hadst been born blind, thou mightst as well have known all our names as thus to name the several colours we do wear. Sight may distinguish of colours, but suddenly to nominate them all, it is impossible. My lords, Saint Alban here hath done a miracle; and would ye not think 130 his cunning to be great, that could restore this cripple to his legs again?

*Sim.* O master, that you could!

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

*Glo.* My masters of Saint Alban's, have you not beadles  
in your town, and things called whips?

*May.* Yes, my lord, if it please your grace

*Glo.* Then send for one presently.

*May.* Sirrah, go fetch the beadle hither straight.

*Exit an Attendant*

*Glo.* Now fetch me a stool hither by and by. Now,  
sirrah, if you mean to save yourself from whipping, 140  
leap me over this stool and run away.

*Sim.* Alas, master, I am not able to stand alone :  
You go about to torture me in vain.

*Enter a Beadle with whips*

*Glo.* Well, sir, we must have you find your legs. Sirrah  
beadle, whip him till he leap over that same stool.

*Bead.* I will, my lord. Come on, sirrah, off with your  
doublet quickly.

*Sim.* Alas, master, what shall I do ? I am not able to  
stand.

\* After the Beadle hath hit him {once} [one girke]  
\* be leaps over the stool and runs away , and  
they follow and cry, ‘ A miracle ! ’

*King.* O God, seest Thou this, and bearest so long ?

150

*Mar.* It made me laugh to see the villain run.

*Glo.* Follow the knave, and take this drab away.

*Wife.* Alas, sir, we did it for pure need.

*Glo.* Let them be whipp'd through every market-town,  
till they come to Berwick, from whence they, came.

*Exeunt Wife, Beadle, Mayor, &c.*

*Car* Duke Humphrey has done a miracle to-day.

*Suf.* True ; made the lame to leap and fly away.

*Glo.* But you have done more miracles than I ;

You made in a day, my lord, whole towns to fly.

*Enter Buckingham*

*King.* What tidings with our cousin Buckingham ?

160

*Buc.* Such as my heart doth tremble to unfold.

A sort of naughty persons, lewdly bent,  
Under the countenance and confederacy  
Of Lady Eleanor, the protector's wife,  
The ringleader and head of all this rout,  
Have practis'd dangerously against your state,  
Dealing with witches and with conjurers,  
Whom we have apprehended in the fact,  
Raising up wicked spirits from under ground,  
Demanding of King Henry's life and death,

170

And other of your highness' privy-council ;

As more at large your grace shall understand.

*Car.* (*aside to Glo.*) And so, my lord protector, by this  
means

KING HENRY VI—PART II

Your lady is forthcoming yet at London.

This news, I think, hath turn'd your weapon's edge ;  
'Tis like, my lord, you will not keep your hour.

*Glo.* Ambitious churchman, leave to afflict my heait :  
Sorrow and grief have vanquish'd all my powers ,  
And, vanquish'd as I am, I yield to thee,  
Or to the meanest groom.

180

*King.* O God, what mischiefs work the wicked ones,  
Heaping confusion on their own heads thereby !

*Mar. Gloucester,* see here the tainture of thy nest,  
And look thyself be faultless, thou wert best.

*Glo.* Madam, for myself, to heaven I do appeal,  
How I have lov'd my king and commonweal .  
And for my wife, I know not how it stands ,  
Sorry I am to hear what I have heard :  
Noble she is ; but if she have forgot  
Honour and virtue, and convers'd with such  
As, like to pitch, defile nobility,  
I banish her my bed and company,  
And give her as a prey to law and shame,  
That hath dishonour'd Gloucester's honest name.

190

*King.* Well, for this night we will repose us here :  
To-morrow toward London back again,  
To look into this business thoroughly,  
And call these foul offenders to their answers,

And poise the cause in justice' equal scales,  
 Whose beam stands sure, whose rightful cause pre-  
 vails.

*Flourish. Exeunt 200*

SCENE II

*London. The Duke of York's garden*

*Enter York, Salisbury, and Warwick*

*Yo.* Now, my good Lords of Salisbury and Warwick,  
 Our simple supper ended, give me leave  
 In this close walk to satisfy myself,  
 In craving your opinion of my title,  
 Which is infallible, to England's crown.

*Sal.* My lord, I long to hear it at full.

*War.* Sweet York, begin : and if thy claim be good,  
 The Nevils are thy subjects to command.

*Yo.* Then thus .

Edward the Third, my lords, had seven sons : 10  
 The first, Edward the Black Prince, Prince of Wales ;  
 The second, William of Hatfield ; and the third,  
 Lionel, Duke of Clarence ; next to whom  
 Was John of Gaunt, the Duke of Lancaster ;  
 The fifth was Edmund Langley, Duke of York ;  
 The sixth was Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of  
 Gloucester ;

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

William of Windsor was the seventh and last.  
Edward the Black Prince died before his father,  
And left behind him Richard, his only son,  
Who after Edward the Third's death reign'd as king, 20  
Till Henry Bolingbroke, Duke of Lancaster,  
The eldest son and heir of John of Gaunt,  
Crown'd by the name of Henry the Fourth,  
Seiz'd on the realm, depos'd the rightful king,  
Sent his poor queen to France, from whence she came,  
And him to Pomfret ; where, as all you know,  
Harmless Richard was murder'd traitorously.

*War.* Father, the duke hath told the truth ;  
Thus got the house of Lancaster the crown.

*Yo* Which now they hold by force and not by right , 30  
For Richard, the first son's heir, being dead,  
The issue of the next son should have reign'd.

*Sal.* But William of Hatfield died without an heir.

*Yo.* The third son, Duke of Clarence, from whose line  
I claim the crown, had issue, Philippe, a daughter,  
Who married Edmund Mortimer, Earl of March .  
Edmund had issue, Roger, Earl of March ;  
Roger had issue, Edmund, Anne and Eleanor.

*Sal.* This Edmund, in the reign of Bolingbroke,  
As I have read, laid claim unto the crown,  
And but for Owen Glendower, had been king,

40

Who kept him in captivity till he died.

But to the rest.

*Yo.* His eldest sister, Anne,  
 My mother, being heir unto the crown,  
 Married Richard Earl of Cambridge ; who was son  
 To Edmund Langley, Edward the Third's fifth son.  
 By her I claim the kingdom : she was heir  
 To Roger, Earl of March, who was the son  
 Of Edmund Mortimer, who married Philippe,  
 Sole daughter unto Lionel Duke of Clarence.      50  
 So, if the issue of the elder son  
 Succeed before the younger, I am king.

*War.* What plain proceeding is more plain than this ?  
 Henry doth claim the crown from John of Gaunt,  
 The fourth son ; York claims it from the third.  
 Till Lionel's issue fails, his should not reign :  
 It fails not yet, but flourishes in thee,  
 And in thy sons, fair slips of such a stock.  
 Then, father Salisbury, kneel we together,  
 And in this private plot be we the first      60  
 That shall salute our rightful sovereign  
 With honour of his birthright to the crown.

*Both.* Long live our sovereign Richard, England's king !

*Yo.* We thank you, lords. But I am not your king  
 Till I be crown'd, and that my sword be stain'd

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

With heart-blood of the house of Lancaster ;  
{ And that's not suddenly to be perform'd,  
But with advice and silent secrecy.  
Do you as I do in these dangerous days :  
Wink at the Duke of Suffolk's insolence,  
At Beaufort's pride, at Somerset's ambition,  
At Buckingham, and all the crew of them,  
Till they have snar'd the shepherd of the flock,  
That virtuous prince, the good Duke Humphrey :  
'Tis that they seek, and they in seeking that  
Shall find their deaths, if York can prophesy.

*Sal.* My lord, break we off ; we know your mind at full.

*War.* My heart assures me that the Earl of Warwick  
Shall one day make the Duke of York a king. }

[*War.* Then York, advise thyself and take thy time,  
Claim thou the crown, and set thy standard up,  
And in the same advance the milk-white rose,  
And then to guard it will I rouse the bear,  
Invir'on'd with ten thousand ragged staves,  
To aid and help thee for to win thy right,  
Maugre the proudest lord of Henry's blood  
That dares deny the right and claim of York ;  
For why my mind presageth I shall live  
To see the noble Duke of York to be a king.]

Yo. And, Nevil, this I do assure myself : 80  
 Richard shall live to make the Earl of Warwick  
 The greatest man in England but the king. *Exeunt*

## SCENE III

*A hall of justice*

*Sound trumpets. Enter the King, the Queen, Gloucester, York, Suffolk, and Salisbury; the Duchess of Gloucester, Margery Jourdain, Southwell, Hume, and Bolingbroke, under guard*

*King.* Stand forth, Dame Eleanor Cobham, Gloucester's wife :

In sight of God, and us, your guilt is great :  
 Receive the sentence of the law for sins  
 Such as by God's book are adjug'd to death.  
 You four, from hence to prison, back again ;  
 From thence unto the place of execution :  
 The witch in Smithfield shall be burn'd to ashes,  
 And you three shall be strangled on the gallows.  
 You, madam, for you are more nobly born,  
 Despoiled of your honour in your life, 10  
 Shall, {after three days' open penance done,  
 Live in your country here, in banishment,

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

With Sir John Stanley, in the Isle of Man.]

[two days in London do penance barefoot in the streets, with a white sheet about thy body, and a wax taper burning in thy hand. That done, thou shalt be banished for ever unto the Isle of Man, there to end thy wretched days, and this is our sentence irrevocable. Away with her !]

*Ele.* Welcome is banishment ; welcome were my death.

*Glo.* Eleanor, the law, thou see'st, hath judged thee,  
I cannot justify whom the law condemns.

\* *Exeunt Duchess and other prisoners, guarded*

Mine eyes are full of tears, my heart of grief.

Ah, Humphrey, this dishonour in thine age  
Will bring thy head with sorrow to the ground !

I beseech your majesty, give me leave to go ;  
Sorrow would solace, and mine age would ease.

20

*King.* Stay, Humphrey Duke of Gloucester, ere thou go,  
Give up thy staff : Henry will to himself  
Protector be ; and God shall be my hope,  
My stay, my guide, and lantern to my feet :  
And go in peace, Humphrey, no less belov'd  
Than when thou wert protector to thy king.

*Mar.* I see no reason why a king of years  
Should be to be protected like a child.

God and King Henry govern England's realm.

30

Give up your staff, sir, and the king his realm.

*Glo.* My staff ? here, noble Henry, is my staff :

As willingly do I the same resign

As e'er thy father Henry made it mine ;

And even as willingly at thy feet I leave it

As others would ambitiously receive it.

Farewell, good king : when I am dead and gone,

May honourable peace attend thy throne ! *Exit*

*Mar.* Why, now is Henry king, and Margaret queen,

And Humphrey Duke of Gloucester scarce himself, 40

That bears so shrewd a maim ; two pulls ~~at~~ once ;

His lady banish'd, and a limb lopp'd off.

This staff of honour raught, there let it stand

Where it best fits to be, in Henry's hand.

*Sif.* Thus droops this lofty pine, and hangs his sprays :

Thus Eleanor's pride dies in her youngest days.

*Yo.* Lords, let him go. Please it your majesty,

This is the day appointed for the combat,

And ready are the appellant and defendant,

The armourer and his man, to enter the lists,

So please your highness to behold the fight. 50

*Mar.* Ay, good my lord ; for purposely therefore

Left I the court, to see this quarrel tried.

*King.* O' God's name, see the lists and all things fit :

Here let them end it, and God defend the right !

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

Yo. I never saw a fellow worse bested,  
Or more afraid to fight, than is the appellant,  
The servant of this armourer, my lords.

*Enter at one door, Horner, the Armourer, and his Neighbours, drinking to him so much that he is drunk ; and he enters with a drum before him, and his staff with a sand-bag fastened to it ; and at the other door Peter, his man, with a drum and sand-bag, and 'Prentices drinking t' him*

1.N. Here, neighbour Horner, I drink to you in a cup of sack : and fear not, neighbour, you shall do well 60  
enough.

2.N. And here, neighbour, here's a cup of charneco.

3.N. And here's a pot of good double beer, neighbour : drink, and fear not your man.

Hor. Let it come, i' faith, and I'll pledge you all, and a fig for Peter !

1.P. Here, Peter, I drink to thee, and be not afraid.

2 P. Be merry, Peter, and fear not thy master : fight for credit of the 'prentices.

Pet. I thank you all : drink, and pray for me, I pray you, 70  
for I think I have taken my last draught in this world. Here, Robin, an if I die, I give thee my apron : and, Will, thou shalt have my hammer : and here, Tom, take all the money that I have. O Lord bless me ! I pray God ! for I am never able to

deal with my master, he hath learnt so much fence already.

*Sal.* Come, leave your drinking, and fall to blows.  
Sirrah, what's thy name?

*Pet.* Peter, forsooth.

80

*Sal.* Peter? what more?

*Pet.* Thump.

*Sal.* Thump? then see thou thump thy master well.

*Hor.* Masters, I am come hither, as it were, upon my man's instigation, to prove him a knave and myself an honest man: and touching the Duke of York, I will take my death, I never meant him any ill, nor the king, nor the queen: and therefore, Peter, have at thee with a downright blow! [as Bevis of Southampton fell upon Askapart.]

*Yo.* Dispatch: this knave's tongue begins to double. 91  
Sound, trumpets, alarum to the combatants!

*Alarum They fight, and Peter strikes him down*

*Hor.* Hold, Peter, hold! I confess, I confess, treason.

\*Dies

*Yo.* Take away his weapon. Fellow, thank God, and the good wine in thy master's way.

*Pet.* O God, have I overcome mine enemies in this presence? O Peter, thou hast prevail'd in right!

[*Prentices.* Ho, well done, Peter! God save the king!]

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

*King.* Go, take hence that traitor from our sight,  
For by his death we do perceive his guilt,  
And God in justice hath reveal'd to us  
The truth and innocence of this poor fellow,  
Which he had thought to have murder'd wrongfully.  
Come, fellow, follow us for thy reward.

*Sound a flourish. Exeunt*

100

### SCENE IV

*A street*

*Enter Gloucester, and his Serving-men [in mourning cloaks]*

*Glo.* Thus sometimes hath the brightest day a cloud ;  
And after summer, evermore succeeds  
Barren winter, with his wrathful nipping cold :  
So cares and joys abound, as seasons fleet.  
Sirs, what's o'clock ?

*Ser.* Ten, my lord.

*Glo.* Ten 'is the hour that was appointed me  
To w<sup>t</sup>ch the coming of my punish'd duchess :  
Uneath may she endure the flinty streets,  
To tread them with her tender-feeling feet.  
Sweet Nell, ill can thy noble mind abrook  
The abject people gazing on thy face,

10

With envious looks laughing at thy shame,  
 That erst did follow thy proud chariot-wheels,  
 When thou didst ride in triumph through the streets.  
 But, soft ! I think she comes, and I 'll prepare  
 My tear-stain'd eyes to see her miseries.

*Enter the Duchess of Gloucester in a white sheet, and a wax candle burning in her hand [and verses written on her back and pinned on]; with Sir John Stanley, the Sheriff, and Officers [, with bills and halberds].*

*Ser.* So please your grace, we 'll take her from th~sheriff.  
*Glo.* No, stir not for your lives, let her pass by.\*  
*Ele.* Come you, my lord, to see my open shame ?  
 Now thou dost penance too. Look how they gaze ! 20  
 See how the giddy multitude do point,  
 And nod their heads, and throw their eyes on thee !  
 Ah, Gloucester, hide thee from their hateful looks,  
 And, in thy closet pent up, rue my shame,  
 And ban thine enemies, both mine and thine !  
*Glo.* Be patient, gentle Nell ; forget this grief.  
*Ele.* Ah, Gloucester, teach me to forget myself !  
 For whilst I think I am thy married wife,  
 And thou a prince, protector of this land,  
 Methinks I should not thus be led along,  
 Mail'd up in shame, with papers on my back,  
 And follow'd with a rabble, that rejoice 30

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

To see my tears, and hear my deep-fet groans.  
The ruthless flint doth cut my tender feet,  
And when I start, the envious people laugh,  
And bid me be advised how I tread.

Ah, Humphrey, can I bear this shameful yoke ?  
Trow'st thou that e'er I'll look upon the world,  
Or count them happy that enjoy the sun ?

No ; dark shall be my light and night my day ;  
To think upon my pomp shall be my hell.

Sometimes I'll say, I am Duke Humphrey's wife,  
And he a prince, and ruler of the land :  
Yet so he rul'd, and such a prince he was,  
As he stood by, whilst I, his forlorn duchess,  
Was made a wonder, and a pointing-stock  
To every idle rascal follower.

But be thou mild, and blush not at my shame,  
Nor stir at nothing till the axe of death

Hang over thee, as, sure, it shortly will ;  
For Suffolk—he that can do all in all  
With her that hateth thee and hates us all—  
And York, and impious Beaufort, that false priest,  
Have all lim'd bushes to betray thy wings,  
And fly thou how thou canst, they'll tangle thee :  
But fear not thou, until thy foot be snar'd,  
Nor never seek prevention of thy foes.

40

50

*Glo.* Ah, Nell, forbear ! thou aimest all awry ;  
 I must offend, before I be attainted ;  
 And had I twenty times so many foes, 60  
 And each of them had twenty times their power,  
 All these could not procure me any scathe,  
 So long as I am loyal, true and crimeless.  
 Wouldst have me rescue thee from this reproach ?  
 Why, yet thy scandal were not wip'd away,  
 But I in danger for the breach of law.  
 Thy greatest help is quiet, gentle Nell :  
 I pray thee, sort thy heart to patience ;  
 These few days' wonder will be quickly worn.

*Enter a Herald*

*Her.* I summon your grace to his majesty's parliament, 70  
 Holden at Bury, the first of this next month.

*Glo.* And my consent ne'er ask'd herein before !  
 This is close dealing. Well, I will be there.

*Exit Herald*

My Nell, I take my leave : and, master sheriff,  
 Let not her penance exceed the king's commission.

*Sher.* An't please your grace, here my commission stays,  
 And Sir John Stanley is appointed now  
 To take her with him to the Isle of Man.

*Glo.* Must you, Sir John, protect my lady here ?

*Stan.* So am I given in charge, may't please your grace. 80

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

*Glo.* Entreat her not the worse in that I pray  
    You use her well : the world may laugh again,  
    And I may live to do you kindness if  
    You do it her : and so, Sir John, farewell !

*Ele.* What, gone, my lord, and bid me not farewell ?

*Glo.* Witness my tears, I cannot stay to speak.

†

*Exeunt Gloucester and Serving-men*

*Ele.* Art thou gone too ? all comfort go with thee !

For none abides with me : my joy is death,—  
Death, at whose name I oft have been afear'd,  
Because I wish'd this world's eternity.

Stanley, I prithee, go, and take me hence,  
I care not whither, for I beg no favour,  
Only convey me where thou art commanded.

*Stan.* Why, madam, that is to the Isle of Man,  
There to be us'd according to your state.

*Ele.* That's bad enough, for I am but reproach :  
And shall I then be us'd reproachfully ?

*Stan.* Like to a duchess, and Duke Humphrey's lady ;  
According to that state you shall be us'd.

*Ele.* Sheriff, farewell, and better than I fare,  
Although thou hast been conduct of my shame.

*Sher.* It is my office ; and, madam, pardon me.

*Ele.* Ay, ay, farewell, thy office is discharg'd :  
Come, Stanley, shall we go ?

90

100

*Stan.* Madam, your penance done, throw off this sheet,  
And go we to attire you for our journey.

*E/e.* My shame will not be shifted with my sheet :  
No, it will hang upon my richest robes,  
And show itself, attire me how I can.  
Go, lead the way ; I long to see my prison. *Exeunt* 110

## Act Third

### SCENE I

*The Abbey at Bury St Edmund's*

*Sound a Sennet.* Enter King, Queen, Cardinal Beaufort,  
Suffolk, York, Buckingham, Salisbury and Warwick to  
the Parliament

*King.* I muse my Lord of Gloucester is not come ;  
'Tis not his wont to be the hindmost man,  
Whate'er occasion keeps him from us now.

*Mar.* Can you not see ? or will ye not observe  
The strangeness of his alter'd countenance ?  
With what a majesty he bears himself,  
How insolent of late he is become,  
How proud, how peremptory, and unlike himself ?

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

We know the time since he was mild and affable,  
And if we did but glance a far-off look,  
Immediately he was upon his knee,  
That all the court admir'd him for submission :  
But meet him now, and, be it in the morn,  
When every one will give the time of day,  
He knits his brow, and shows an angry eye,  
And passeth by with stiff unbowed knee,  
Disdaining duty that to us belongs.

10

Small ~~ears~~ are not regarded when they grin,  
But great men tremble when the lion roars,  
And Humphrey is no little man in England.

20

First note that he is near you in descent,  
And should you fall, he is the next will mount.

Me seemeth then it is no policy,  
Respecting what a rancorous mind he bears,  
And his advantage following your decease,  
That he should come about your royal person,  
Or be admitted to your highness' council.

By flattery hath he won the commons' hearts,  
And when he please to make commotion,  
'Tis to be fear'd they all will follow him.

30

Now 'tis the spring, and weeds are shallow-rooted ;  
Suffer them now, and they 'll o'ergrow the garden,  
And choke the herbs for want of husbandry.

The reverent care I bear unto my lord  
 Made me collect these dangers in the duke.  
 If it be fond, call it a woman's fear ;  
 Which fear if better reasons can supplant,  
 I will subscribe, and say I wrong'd the duke.  
 My Lord of Suffolk, Buckingham, and York,  
 Reprove my allegation, if you can,  
 Or else conclude my words effectual.

40

*Suf.* Well hath your highness seen into this duke ;  
 And had I first been put to speak my mind,  
 I think I should have told your grace's tale.  
 The duchess by his subornation,  
 Upon my life, began her devilish practices  
 Or, if he were not privy to those faults,  
 Yet, by reputing of his high descent,  
 As next the king he was successive heir,  
 And such high vaunts of his nobility,  
 Did instigate the bedlam brain-sick duchess  
 By wicked means to frame our sovereign's fall.  
 Smooth runs the water where the brook is deep,  
 And in his simple show he harbours treason.  
 The fox baiks not when he would steal the lamb.  
 No, no, my sovereign, Gloucester is a man  
 Unsounded yet, and full of deep deceit.

50

*Car.* Did he not, contrary to form of law,

KING HENRY VI—PART II

Devise strange deaths for small offences done ?

Yo. And did he not, in his protectorship, 60

Levy great sums of money through the realm

For soldiers' pay in France, and never sent it ?

By means whereof the towns each day revolted.

Buc. Tut, these are petty faults to faults unknown,  
Which time will bring to light in smooth Duke  
Humphrey.

King My lords, at once : the care you have of us,

To mow down thorns that would annoy our foot,

Is worthy praise : but, shall I speak my conscience,

Our kinsman Gloucester is as innocent

From meaning treason to our royal person, 70

As is the sucking lamb, or harmless dove :

The duke is virtuous, mild, and too well given

To dream on evil, or to work my downfall.

Mar. Ah, what's more dangerous than this fond affiance ?

Seems he a dove ? his feathers are but borrow'd,

For he's dispos'd as the hateful raven :

Is he a lamb ? his skin is surely lent him,

For he's inclin'd as is the ravenous wolf.

Who cannot steal a shape that means deceit ?

Take heed, my lord, the welfare of us all

Hangs on the cutting short that fraudulent man. 80

*Enter Somerset*

*Som.* All health unto my gracious sovereign !

*King.* Welcome, Lord Somerset. What news from France ?

*Som.* That all your interest in those territories

Is utterly bereft you ; all is lost.

*King* Cold news, Lord Somerset : but God's will be done !

*Yo.* (*aside*) Cold news for me ; for I had hope of France,

As firmly as I hope for fertile England

Thus are my blossoms blasted in the bud,

And caterpillars eat my leaves away ;

But I will remedy this gear ere long,

Or sell my title for a glorious grave.

90

*Enter Gloucester*

*Glo.* All happiness unto my lord the king !

Pardon, my liege, that I have stay'd so long.

*Suf.* Nay, Gloucester, know that thou art come too soon,

Unless thou wert more loyal than thou art :

I do arrest thee of high treason here.

*Glo.* Well, Suffolk, thou shalt not see me blush,

Nor change my countenance for this arrest :

A heart unspotted is not easily daunted.

100

The purest spring is not so free from mud

As I am clear from treason to my sovereign :

Who can accuse me ? wherein am I guilty ?

*Yo.* 'Tis thought, my lord, that you took bribes of France,

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

And, being protector, stay'd the soldiers' pay,  
By means whereof his highness hath lost France.

*Glo.* Is it but thought so ? what are they that think it ?

I never robb'd the soldiers of their pay,  
Nor ever had one penny bribe from France.  
So help me God, as I have watch'd the night,      110  
Ay, night by night, in studying good for England !  
That doit that e'er I wrested from the king,  
Or any groat I hoarded to my use,  
Be brought against me at my trial-day !      †

No ; many a pound of mine own proper store,  
Because I would not tax the needy commons,  
Have I dispursed to the garrisons,  
And never ask'd for restitution.

*Car.* It serves you well, my lord, to say so much.

*Glo.* I say no more than truth, so help me God !      120

*Yo.* In your protectorship, you did devise  
Strange tortures for offenders, never heard of,  
That England was defam'd by tyranny.

*Glo.* Why, 'tis well known that, whiles I was protector,  
Pity was all the fault that was in me ;  
For I should melt at an offender's tears,  
And lowly words were ransom for their fault.  
Unless it were a bloody murderer,  
Or foul felonious thief, that fleec'd poor passengers,

I never gave them condign punishment :  
 Murder indeed, that bloody sin, I tortur'd  
 Above the felon, or what trespass else.

130

*Suf.* My lord, these faults are easy, quickly answer'd :  
 But mightier crimes are laid unto your charge,  
 Whe'reof you cannot easily purge yourself.  
 I do arrest you in his highness' name,  
 And here commit you to my lord cardinal  
 To keep, until your further time of trial.

*Kng.* My Lord of Gloucester, 'tis my special hope.

That you will clear yourself from all suspect  
 My conscience tells me you are innocent.

*Glo.* Ah, gracious lord, these days are dangerous :  
 Virtue is chok'd with foul ambition,  
 And charity chas'd hence by rancour's hand .  
 Foul subornation is predominant,  
 And equity exil'd your higness' land.  
 I know their complot is to have my life ;  
 And if my death might make this island happy,  
 And prove the period of their tyranny,  
 I would expend it with all willingness :  
 But mine is made the prologue to their play ;  
 For thousands more, that yet suspect no peril,  
 Will not conclude their plotted tragedy.  
 Beaufort's red sparkling eyes bla'b his heart's malice,

140

150

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

And Suffolk's cloudy brow his stormy hate ;  
Sharp Buckingham unburthens with his tongue  
The envious load that lies upon his heart ;  
And dogged York, that reaches at the moon,  
Whose overweening arm I have pluck'd back,  
By false accuse doth level at my life :      160  
And you, my sovereign lady, with the rest,  
Causeless have laid disgraces on my head,  
And with your best endeavour have stirr'd up  
My liegest liege to be mine enemy :  
Ay, all of you have laid your heads together—  
Myself had notice of your conventicles—  
And all to make away my guiltless life.  
I shall not want false witness, to condemn me,  
Nor store of treasons, to augment my guilt ;  
The ancient proverb will be well effected :      170  
‘ A staff is quickly found to beat a dog.’

*Car.* My liege, his railing is intolerable :  
If those that care to keep your royal person  
From treason’s secret knife, and traitors’ rage,  
Be thus upbraided, chid, and rated at,  
And the offender granted scope of speech,  
‘Twill make them cool in zeal unto your grace.  
*Suf.* Hath he not twit our sovereign lady here  
With ignominious words, though clerkly couch’d ?

As if she had suborned some to swear  
False allegations, to o'erthrow his state ?

180

*Mar.* But I can give the loser leave to chide.

*Glo.* Far truer spoke than meant : I lose indeed ;  
Beshrew the winners, for they play'd me false !  
And well such losers may have leave to speak.

*Buc.* He'll wrest the sense, and hold us here all day :  
Lord cardinal, he is your prisoner.

*Car.* Sirs, take away the duke, and guard him sure.

*Glo.* Ah ! thus King Henry throws away his crutch,  
Before his legs be firm to bear his body. . . . . 190  
Thus is the shepherd beaten from thy side,  
And wolves are gnarling who shall gnaw thee first. ↑  
Ah, that my fear were false ! ah, that it were !  
For, good King Henry, thy decay I fear.

*Exit, guarded*

*King.* My lords, what to your wisdoms seemeth best,  
Do, or undo, as if ourself were here.

*Mar.* What, will your highness leave the Parliament ?

*King.* Ay, Margaret ; my heart is drown'd with grief,  
Whose flood begins to flow within mine eyes,  
My body round engirt with misery, 200  
For what's more miserable than discontent ?  
Ah, uncle Humphrey, in thy face I see  
The map of honour, truth, and loyalty :

KING HENRY VI—PART II

And yet, good Humphrey, is the hour to come  
That e'er I prov'd thee false, or fear'd thy faith.  
What louring star now envies thy estate,  
That these great lords, and Margaret our queen,  
Do seek subversion of thy harmless life ?  
Thou never didst them wrong, nor no man wrong ,  
And as the butcher takes away the calf,      210  
And binds the wretch, and beats it when it strays,  
Bearing it to the bloody slaughter-house,  
Even so remorseless have they borne him hence ;  
And as the dam runs lowing up and down,  
Looking the way her harmless young one went,  
And can do nought but wail her darling's loss,  
Even so myself bewails good Gloucester's case  
With sad unhelpful tears, and with dimm'd eyes  
Look after him, and cannot do him good,  
So mighty are his vowed enemies.      220

His fortunes I will weep, and 'twixt each groan  
Say ' Who's a traitor ? Gloucester he is none.'

*' Exeunt all but Queen, Cardinal Beaufort, Suffolk,  
and York. Somerset remains apart'*

*Mar.* Free lords, cold snow melts with the sun's hot beams.  
Henry, my lord, is cold in great affairs,  
Too full of foolish pity ; and Gloucester's show  
Beguiles him, as the mournful crocodile      †

With sorrow snares relenting passengers ;  
 Or as the snake, roll'd in a flowering bank,  
 With shining checker'd slough, doth sting a child,  
 That for the beauty thinks it excellent.

230

Believe me, lords, were none more wise than I—  
 And yet herein I judge mine own wit good—  
 This Gloucester should be quickly rid the world,  
 To rid us from the fear we have of him.

*Car.* That he should die is worthy policy,  
 But yet we want a colour for his death .  
 'Tis meet he be condemn'd by course of law.

*Suf* But, in my mind, that were no policy :  
 The king will labour still to save his life,  
 The commons haply rise, to save his life ;      240  
 And yet we have but trivial argument,  
 More than mistrust, that shows him worthy death.

*Yo.* So that, by this, you would not have him die.

*Suf.* Ah, York, no man alive so fain as I !

*Yo.* 'Tis York that hath more reason for his death.  
 But, my lord cardinal, and you, my Lord of Suffolk,  
 Say as you think, and speak it from your souls :  
 Were't not all one, an empty eagle were set  
 To guard the chicken from a hungry kite,  
 As place Duke Humphrey for the king's protector ?      250

*Mar.* So the poor chicken should be sure of death.

KING HENRY VI—PART II

*Suf.* Madam, 'tis true ; and were 't not madness, then,  
To make the fox surveyor of the fold ?  
Who being accus'd a crafty murderer,  
His guilt should be but idly posted over,  
Because his purpose is not executed.  
No ; let him die, in that he is a fox,  
By nature prov'd an enemy to the flock,  
Before his chaps be stain'd with crimson blood,  
As Humphrey, prov'd by reasons, to my liege.      260  
And do not stand on quilletts how to slay him :  
Be it by gins, by snares, by subtlety,  
Sleeping, or waking, 'tis no matter how,  
So he be dead ; for that is good deceit  
Which mates him first that first intends deceit.

*Mar.* Thrice-noble Suffolk, 'tis resolutely spoke.

*Suf.* Not resolute, except so much were done,  
For things are often spoke, and seldom meant :  
But that my heart accordeth with my tongue,  
Seeing the deed is meritorious,      270  
And so preserve my sovereign from his foe,  
Say but the word, and I will be his priest.

*Car.* But I would have him dead, my lord of Suffolk,  
Ere you can take due orders for a priest :  
Say you consent, and censure well the deed,  
And I 'll provide his executioner,

I tender so the safety of my liege.

*Suf.* Here is my hand, the deed is worthy doing.

*Mar.* And so say I.

*Yo.* And I : and now we three have spoke it, 280

It skills not greatly who impugns our doom

*Enter a Post*

*Post.* Great lords, from Ireland am I come amain,

To signify that rebels there are up,

And put the Englishmen unto the sword :

Send succours, lords, and stop the rage betime,

Before the wound do grow incurable ;

For, being green, there is great hope of help.

*Car.* A breach that craves a quick expedient stop !

What counsel give you in this weighty cause ?

*Yo.* That Somerset be sent as regent thither : 290

'Tis meet that lucky ruler be employ'd ;

Witness the fortune he hath had in France.

*Som.* If York, with all his far-fet policy,

Had been the regent there instead of me,

He never would have stay'd in France so long,

*Yo.* No, not to lose it all, as thou hast done :

I rather would have lost my life betimes

Than bring a burthen of dishonour home,

By staying there so long, till all were lost.

Show me one scar character'd on thy skin : 300

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

Men's flesh preserv'd so whole do seldom win.

*Mar.* Nay, then, this spark will prove a raging fire,

If wind and fuel be brought, to feed it with :

No more, good York ; sweet Somerset, be still .

Thy fortune, York, hadst thou been regent there,

Might happily have prov'd far worse than his.

*Yo.* What, worse than nought ? nay, then, a shame take all !

*Som.* And, in the number, thee, that wishest shame !

*Car.* My Lord of York, try what your fortune is.

The uncivil kernes of Ireland are in arms,

310

And temper clay with blood of Englishmen

To Ireland will you leyd a band of men,

Collected choicely, from each county some,

And try your hap against the Irishmen ?

*Yo.* I will, my lord, so please his majesty.

*Suf.* Why, our authority is his consent,

And what we do establish he confirms.

Then, noble York, take thou this task in hand.

*Yo.* I am content : provide me soldiers, lords,

Whiles I take order for mine own affairs.

320

*Suf.* A charge, Lord York, that I will see perform'd.

But now return we to the false Duke Humphrey.

*Car.* No more of him ; for I will deal with him,

That henceforth he shall trouble us no more.

And so break off, the day is almost spent :

Lord Suffolk, you and I must talk of that event.

*Yo.* My Lord of Suffolk, within fourteen days  
At Bristol I expect my soldiers ;  
For there I'll ship them all for Ireland.

*Sif.* I'll see it truly done, my Lord of York.

330

*Exeunt all but York*

*Yo.* Now, York, or never, steel thy fearful thoughts,  
And change misdoubt to resolution :  
Be that thou hop'st to be, or what thou art  
Resign to death ; it is not worth the enjoying :  
Let pale-fac'd fear keep with the mean-born man,  
And find no harbour in a royal heart.  
Faster than spring-time showers comes thought on  
thought,

And not a thought but thinks on dignity.

My brain more busy than the labouring spider  
Weaves tedious snares to trap mine enemies.

340

Well, nobles, well ; 'tis politicly done,  
To send me packing with an host of men :  
I fear me, you but warm the starved snake.  
Who, cherish'd in your breasts, will sting your hearts.  
'Twas men I lack'd, and you will give them me :  
I take it kindly ; yet be well assur'd  
You put sharp weapons in a madman's hands  
Whiles I in Ireland nourish a mighty band,

KING HENRY VI—PART II

I will stir up in England some black storm  
Shall blow ten thousand souls to heaven, or hell ,  
And this fell tempest shall not cease to rage  
Until the golden circuit on my head,  
Like to the glorious sun's transpaient beams,  
Do calm the fury of this mad-bred flaw.

350

And, for a minister of my intent,  
I have seduc'd a headstrong Kentishman,  
John Cade of Ashford,  
To make commotion, as full well he can,  
Under the title of John Mortimer.

In Ireland have I seen this stubborn Cade  
Oppose himself against a troop of kernes,  
And fought so long, till that his thighs with darts  
Were almost like a sharp-quill'd porpentine ;  
And, in the end being rescued, I have seen  
Him caper upright, like a wild Morisco,  
Shaking the bloody darts as he his bells.  
Full often, like a shag-hair'd crafty kerne,  
Hath he conversed with the enemy,  
And undiscover'd come to me again,  
And given me notice of their villanies.  
This devil here shall be my substitute ;  
For that John Mortimer, which now is dead,  
In face, in gait, in speech, he doth resemble :

360

370

By this I shall perceive the commons' mind,  
 How they affect the house and claim of York  
 Say he be taken, rack'd and tortured,  
 I know no pain they can inflict upon him  
 Will make him say I mov'd him to those arms.  
 Say that he thrive, as 'tis great like he will,  
 Why, then from Ireland come I with my strength,      380  
 And reap the harvest which that rascal sow'd ;  
 For Humphrey being dead, as he shall be,  
 And Henry put apart, the next for me.                  *Exit*

## SCENE II

*Bury St Edmund's. A room of state*

*Enter certain Murderers, hastily*

- 1.M. Run to my Lord of Suffolk ; let him know  
 We have dispatch'd the duke, as he commanded.  
 2.M. O, that it were to do ! what have we done ?  
 Didst ever hear a man so penitent ?

*Enter Suffolk*

- 1.M. Here comes my lord.  
*Suf.* Now, sirs, have you dispatch'd this thing ?  
 1.M. Ay, my good lord, he 's dead.  
*Suf.* Why, that 's well said. Go, get you to my house,

KING HENRY VI—PART II

I will reward you for this venturous deed.  
The king and all the peers are here at hand.  
Have you laid fair the bed ? Is all things well,  
According as I gave directions ?

1.M.'Tis, my good lord.

Suf. Away, be gone !

*Exeunt Murderers*

*Sound trumpets. Enter the King, the Queen, Cardinal  
Beaufort, Somerset, with Attendants*

King. Go, call our uncle to our presence straight ;

Say, we intend to try his grace to-day,  
If he be guilty, as 'tis published.

Suf. I'll call him presently, my noble lord.

*Exit*

King. Lords, take your places ; and I pray you all

Proceed no straiter 'gainst our uncle Gloucester  
Than from true evidence, of good esteem,  
He be approv'd in practice culpable.

Mar. God forbid any malice should prevail,  
That faultless may condemn a nobleman !  
Pray God he may acquit him of suspicion !

King. I thank thee, Nell ; these words content me much. †

*Re-enter Suffolk*

How now ? why look'st thou pale ? why tremblest  
thou ?

Where is our uncle ? what's the matter, Suffolk ?

Suf. Dead in his bed, my lord ; Gloucester is dead.

*Mar.* Marry, God forfend !

30

*Car.* God's secret judgement : I did dream to-night

The duke was dumb, and could not speak a word.

*The King swoons*

*Mar.* How fares my lord ? Help, lords ! the king is dead.

*Som.* Rear up his body, wring him by the nose.

*Mar.* Run, go, help, help ! O Henry, ope thine eyes !

*Snf.* He doth revive again : madam, be patient.

*King.* O heavenly God !

*Mar.* How fares my gracious lord ?

*Suf.* Comfort, my sovereign ! gracious Henry, comfort !

*King.* What, doth my Lord of Suffolk comfort me ?

Came he right now to sing a raven's note,

40

Whose dismal tune bereft my vital powers ;

And thinks he that the chirping of a wren,

By crying comfort from a hollow breast,

Can chase away the first-conceived sound ?

Hide not thy poison with such sugar'd words,

Lay not thy hands on me ; forbear, I say,

Their touch affrights me as a serpent's sting.

Thou baleful messenger, out of my sight !

Upon thy eye-balls murderous tyranny

Sits in grim majesty, to fright the world.

50

Look not upon me, for thine eyes are wounding :

Yet do not go away : come, basilisk,

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

And kill the innocent gazer with thy sight ;  
For in the shade of death I shall find joy ;  
In life but double death, now Gloucester's dead.

*Mar.* Why do you rate my Lord of Suffolk thus ?

Although the duke was enemy to him,  
Yet he most Christian-like laments his death :  
And for myself, foe as he was to me,  
Might liquid tears, or heart-offending groans,  
Or blood-consuming sighs recall his life,  
I w~~o~~uld be blind with weeping, sick with groans,  
Look pale as primrose with blood-drinking sighs,  
And all to have the noble duke alive.

60

What know I how the world may deem of me ?  
For it is known we were but hollow friends :  
It may be judg'd I made the duke away,  
So shall my name with slander's tongue be wounded,  
And princes' courts be fill'd with my reproach.

This get I by his death : ay me unhappy,  
To be a queen, and crown'd with infamy !

70

*King.* Ah, woe is me for Gloucester, wretched man !

*Mar.* Be woe for me, more wretched than he is.

What, dost thou turn away and hide thy face ?  
I am no loathsome leper ; look on me.  
What ? art thou like the adder waxen deaf ?  
Be poisonous too, and kill thy forlorn queen.

Is all thy comfort shut in Gloucester's tomb ?

Why, then, dame Eleanor was ne'er thy joy.

Erect his statue, and worship it,

80

And make my image but an alehouse sign.

Was I for this nigh wreck'd upon the sea,

And twice by awkward wind from England's bank

Drove back again unto my native clime ?

What boded this, but well forewarning wind

Did seem to say ' Seek not a scorpion's nest,

Nor set no footing on this unkind shore ' ?

What did I then ? but curs'd the gentle gysts,

And he that loos'd them forth their brazen caves ;

And bid them blow towards England's blessed shore, 90

Or turn our stern upon a dreadful rock ?

Yet Æolus would not be a murderer,

But left that hateful office unto thee :

The pretty vaulting sea refus'd to drown me,

Knowing that thou would'st have me drown'd on  
shore,

With tears as salt as sea, through thy unkindness .

The splitting rocks cower'd in the sinking sands,

And would not dash me with their ragged sides,

Because thy flinty heart, more hard than they,

Might in thy palace perish Margaret.

100

As far as I could ken thy chalky cliffs

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

When from thy shore the tempest beat us back,  
I stood upon the hatches in the storm ;  
And when the dusky sky began to rob  
My earnest-gaping sight of thy land's view,  
I took a costly jewel from my neck—  
A heart it was, bound in with diamonds—  
And threw it towards thy land : the sea receiv'd it,  
And so I wish'd thy body might my heart :  
And even with this I lost fair England's view,      110  
And ~~bid~~ mine eyes be packing with my heart,  
And call'd them blind and dusky spectacles,  
For losing ken of Albion's wished coast.  
How often have I tempted Suffolk's tongue,  
(The agent of thy foul inconstancy)  
To sit and witch me, as Ascanius did,  
When he to madding Dido would unfold  
His father's acts, commenc'd in burning Troy !      †  
Am I not witch'd like her ? or thou not false like  
him ?  
Ay me, I can no more ! die, Margaret !      120  
For Henry weeps that thou dost live so long.  
*Noise within.* Enter Warwick, Salisbury, and  
many Commons

*War.* It is reported, mighty sovereign,  
That good Duke Humphrey traitorously is murder'd

By Suffolk and the Cardinal Beaufort's means.  
 The commons, like an angry hive of bees  
 That want their leader, scatter up and down,  
 And care not who they sting in his revenge.  
 Myself have calm'd their spleenful mutiny,  
 Until they hear the order of his death.

*King.* That he is dead, good Warwick, 'tis too true,                    130  
 But how he died God knows, not Henry :  
 Enter his chamber, view his breathless corpse,  
 And comment then upon his sudden death.

*War.* That shall I do, my liege Stay, Salisbury,  
 With the rude multitude, till I return.                                      *Exit.*

*King.* O Thou that judgest all things, stay my thoughts ;  
 My thoughts, that labour to persuade my soul  
 Some violent hands were laid on Humphrey's life !  
 If my suspect be false, forgive me, God,  
 For judgement only doth belong to Thee.                            140  
 Fain would I go to chafe his paly lips  
 With twenty thousand kisses, and to drain  
 Upon his face an ocean of salt tears,  
 To tell my love unto his dumb deaf trunk,  
 And with my fingers feel his hand unfeeling :  
 But all in vain are these mean obsequies ;  
 And to survey his dead and earthy image,  
 What were it but to make my sorrow greater ?

KING HENRY VI—PART II

Re-enter Warwick and others, bearing Gloucester's  
body on a bed

War. Come hither, gracious sovereign, view this body.

King. That is to see how deep my grave is made, 150

For with his soul fled all my worldly solace,  
For seeing him I see my life in death.

War. As surely as my soul intends to live  
With that dread King, that took our state upon him,  
To free us from his Father's wrathful curse,  
I ~~do~~ believe that violent hands were laid  
Upon the life of this thrice-famed duke.

Suf. A dreadful oath, sworn with a solemn tongue !  
What instance gives Lord Warwick for his vow ?

War. See how the blood is settled in his face. 160

Oft have I seen a timely-parted ghost,  
Of ashy semblance, meagre, pale, and bloodless  
Being all descended to the labouring heart ;  
Who, in the conflict that it holds with death,  
Attracts the same for aidance 'gainst the enemy ;  
Which with the heart there cools, and ne'er returneth  
To blush and beautify the cheek again.  
But see, his face is black, and full of blood,  
His eye-balls further out than when he liv'd,  
Staring full ghastly, like a strangled man ; 170  
His hair uprear'd, his nostrils stretch'd with struggling ;

His hands abroad display'd, as one that grasp'd  
 And tugg'd for life, and was by strength subdued :  
 Look, on the sheets his hair, you see, is sticking,  
 His well-proportion'd beard made rough and rugged,  
 Like to the summer's corn by tempest lodged.  
 It cannot be but he was murder'd here ;  
 The least of all these signs were probable.

*Suf.* Why, Warwick, who should do the duke to death ?  
 Myself and Beaufort had him in protection ;      180  
 And we, I hope, sir, are no murderers.

*War.* But both of you were vow'd Duke Humphrey's foes,  
 And you, forsooth, had the good duke to keep  
 'Tis like you would not feast him like a friend,  
 And 'tis well seen he found an enemy.

*Mar.* Then you, belike, suspect these noblemen  
 As guilty of Duke Humphrey's timeless death.

*War.* Who finds the heifer dead, and bleeding fresh,  
 And sees fast by a butcher with an axe,  
 But will suspect 'twas he that made the slaughter ?      190  
 Who finds the partridge in the puttock's nest,  
 But may imagine how the bird was dead,  
 Although the kite soar with unbloodied beak ?  
 Even so suspicious is this tragedy.      †

*Mar.* Are you the butcher, Suffolk ? Where's your knife ?  
 Is Beaufort term'd a kite ? Where are his talons ?

KING HENRY VI—PART II

*Suf.* I wear no knife to slaughter sleeping men,  
But here's a vengeful sword, rusted with ease,  
That shall be scoured in his rancorous heart  
That slanders me with murder's crimson badge.      200  
Say, if thou dar'st, proud Lord of Warwickshire,  
That I am faulty in Duke Humphrey's death.

*Exeunt Cardinal, Somerset, and others*  
*War.* What dares not Warwick, if false Suffolk dare him ?

*Mar.* He dares not calm his contumelious spirit,  
Nor cease to be an arrogant controller,

Though Suffolk dare him twenty thousand times.

*War.* Madam, be still ; with reverence may I say,  
For every word you speak in his behalf  
Is slander to your royal dignity.

*Suf.* Blunt-witted lord, ignoble in demeanour !      210  
If ever lady wrong'd her lord so much,  
Thy mother took into her shameful bed  
Some stern untutor'd churl ; and noble stock  
Was graft with crab-tree slip, whose fruit thou art,  
And never of the Nevils' noble race.

*War.* But that the guilt of murder bucklers thee,  
And I should rob the deathsman of his fee,  
Quitting thee thereby of ten thousand shames,  
And that my sovereign's presence makes me mild,  
I would, false murderous coward, on thy knee      220

Make thee beg pardon for thy passed speech,  
 And say it was thy mother that thou meant'st,  
 That thou thyself wast born in bastardy  
 And after all this fearful homage done,  
 Give thee thy hire, and send thy soul to hell,  
 Pernicious blood-sucker of sleeping men !

*Suf.* Thou shalt be waking while I shed thy blood,  
 If from this presence thou dar'st go with me.

*War.* Away even now, or I will drag thee hence :  
 Unworthy though thou art, I 'll cope with thee,      230  
 And do some service to Duke Humphrey's ghost.

*Exeunt Suffolk and Warwick*

*King.* What stronger breastplate than a heart untainted ?  
 Thrice is he arm'd that hath his quarrel just,  
 And he but naked, though lock'd up in steel,  
 Whose conscience with injustice is corrupted.

*A noise within*

*Mar.* What noise is this ?

*Re-enter Suffolk and Warwick, with their weapons  
 drawn*

*King.* Why, how now, loids ? your wrathful weapons  
 drawn

Here in our presence ? dare you be so bold ?  
 Why, what tumultuous clamour have we here ?

*Suf.* The traitorous Warwick, with the men of Bury,

240

KING HENRY VI—PART II

Set all upon me, mighty sovereign.

*Sal.* (*to the Commons, entering*) Sirs, stand apart ; the king  
shall know your mind.

Dread lord, the commons send you word by me,

Unless Lord Suffolk straight be done to death,

Or banished fair England's territories,

They will by violence tear him from your palace,

And torture him with grievous lingering death.

They say, by him the good Duke Humphrey died ,

~~They say, in him they fear your highness' death ;~~

And mere instinct of love and loyalty,

250

Free from a stubborn opposite intent,

As being thought to contradict your liking,

Makes them thus forward in his banishment.

They say, in care of your most royal person,

That if your highness should intend to sleep,

And charge that no man should disturb your rest

In pain of your dislike, or pain of death,

Yet, notwithstanding such a strait edict,

Were there a serpent seen, with forked tongue,

That slyly glided towards your majesty,

It were but necessary you were wak'd,

Lest, being suffer'd in that harmful slumber,

The mortal worm might make the sleep eternal ;

And therefore do they cry, though you forbid,

260

That they will guard you, whether you will or no,  
 From such fell serpents as false Suffolk is,  
 With whose envenomed and fatal sting,  
 Your loving uncle, twenty times his worth,  
 They say, is shamefully bereft of life.

*Commons (within).* An answer from the king, my Lord of  
 Salisbury !

270

*Suf.* 'Tis like the commons, rude unpolish'd hinds,  
 Could send such message to their sovereign :  
 But you, my lord, were glad to be employ'd,  
 To show how quaint an orator you are :  
 But all the honour Salisbury hath won  
 Is, that he was the lord ambassador  
 Sent from a sort of tinkers to the king.

*Commons (within).* An answer from the king, or we will  
 all break in !

*King.* Go, Salisbury, and tell them all from me,  
 I thank them for their tender loving care ;  
 And had I not been cited so by them,  
 Yet did I purpose as they do entreat ;  
 For, sure, my thoughts do hourly prophesy  
 Mischance unto my state by Suffolk's means ;  
 And therefore, by His majesty I swear,  
 Whose far unworthy deputy I am,  
 He shall not breathe infection in this air

280

KING HENRY VI—PART II

But three days longer, on the pain of death.

*Exit Salisbury*

*Mar.* O Henry, let me plead for gentle Suffolk !

*King.* Ungentle queen, to call him gentle Suffolk !

290

No more, I say : if thou dost plead for him,

Thou wilt but add increase unto my wrath.

Had I but said, I would have kept my word ,

But when I swear, it is irrevocable.

If after three days' space thou here be'st found,

On ~~any~~ ground that I am ruler of,

The world shall not be ransom for thy life.

Come, Warwick, come; good Warwick, go with me,

I have great matters to impart to thee.

*Exeunt all but Queen and Suffolk*

*Mar.* Mischance and sorrow go along with you,

†

Heart's discontent and sour affliction

301

Be playfellows to keep you company !

There's two of you, the devil make a third,

And threefold vengeance tend upon your steps !

*Suf.* Cease, gentle queen, these execrations,

And let thy Suffolk take his heavy leave.

*Mar.* Fie, coward woman, and soft-hearted wretch,

Hast thou not spirit to curse thine enemy ?

*Suf.* A plague upon them ! wherefore should I curse them ?

Would curses kill, as doth the mandrake's groan,

†

I would invent as bitter-searching terms, 311

As curst, as harsh, and horrible to hear,

Deliver'd strongly through my fixed teeth,

With full as many signs of deadly hate,

As lean-fac'd Envy in her loathsome cave :

My tongue should stumble in mine earnest words,

Mine eyes should sparkle like the beaten flint,

Mine hair be fix'd an end, as one distract ;

Ay, every joint should seem to curse and ban,

And even now my burthen'd heart would break,

Should I not curse them. Poison be their drink !

Gall, worse than gall, the daintiest that they taste !

Their sweetest shade, a grove of cypress trees !

Their chiefest prospect, murdering basilisks !

Their softest touch, as smart as lizards' stings !

Their music, frightful as the serpent's hiss,

And boding screech-owls make the concert full !

All the foul terrors in dark-seated hell—

*Mar.* Enough, sweet Suffolk, thou torment'st thyself,

And these dread curses, like the sun 'gainst glass,

Or like an overcharged gun, recoil,

And turn the force of them upon thyself.

*Suf.* You bade me ban, and will you bid me leave ?

Now by the ground that I am banish'd from,

Well could I curse away a winter's night,

320

330

KING HENRY VI—PART II

Though standing naked on a mountain top,  
Where biting cold would never let grass grow,  
And think it but a minute spent in sport.

*Mar.* O, let me entreat thee cease ; give me thy hand,  
That I may dew it with my mournful tears ;                           340  
Nor let the rain of heaven wet this place,  
To wash away my woful monuments.  
O, could this kiss be printed in thy hand,  
That thou mightst think upon them by the seal,  
Through whom a thousand sighs are breath'd for  
thee !

So, get thee gone, that I may know my grief ,  
'Tis but surmis'd, whiles thou art standing by,  
As one that surfeits, thinking on a want.

I will repeal thee, or, be well assur'd,

Adventure to be banished myself :                                   350

And banished I am, if but from thee.

Go, speak not to me ; even now be gone.

O go not yet ! Even thus two fiends condemn'd  
Embrace, and kiss, and take ten thousand leaves,  
Loather a hundred times to part than die ;

Yet now farewell, and farewell life with thee !

*Suf.* Thus is poor Suffolk ten times banished ;  
Once by the king, and three times thrice by thec.  
'Tis not the land I care for, wert thou thence ;

A wilderness is populous enough,  
So Suffolk had thy heavenly company :  
For where thou art, there is the world itself,  
With every several pleasure in the world,  
And where thou art not, desolation.  
I can no more : live thou to joy thy life ;  
Myself no joy in nought but that thou liv'st.

*Enter Vaux*

*Mar.* Whither goes Vaux so fast ? what news, I prithee ?

*Vaux.* To signify unto his majesty

That Cardinal Beaufort is at point of death ;  
For suddenly a grievous sickness took him,  
That makes him gasp, and stare, and catch the air,  
Blaspheming God, and cursing men on earth.  
Sometime he talks as if Duke Humphrey's ghost  
Were by his side ; sometime he calls the king,  
And whispers to his pillow, as to him,  
The secrets of his overcharged soul,  
And I am sent to tell his majesty,  
That even now he cries aloud for him.

*Mar.* Go tell this heavy message to the king. *Exit Vaux*

Ay me ! what is this world ? what news are these ?  
But wherefore grieve I at an hour's poor loss,  
Omitting Suffolk's exile, my soul's treasure ?  
Why only, Suffolk, mourn I not for thee ?

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

And with the southern clouds contend in tears ?  
Theirs for the earth's increase, mine for my sorrows ?  
Now get thee hence, the king, thou know'st, is  
coming,

If thou be found by me, thou art but dead.

*Suf.* If I depart from thee, I cannot live,  
And in thy sight to die, what were it else  
But like a pleasant slumber in thy lap ? 390  
Here could I breathe my soul into the air,  
As ~~mild~~ and gentle as the cradle-babe,  
Dying with mother's dug between its lips :  
Where, from thy sight, I should be raging mad,  
And cry out for thee to close up mine eyes,  
To have thee with thy lips to stop my mouth ,  
So should'st thou either turn my flying soul,  
Or I should breathe it so into thy body,  
And then it liv'd in sweet Elysium.  
To die by thee were but to die in jest ;  
From thee to die were torture more than death  
O let me stay, befall what may befall ! 400

*Mar.* Away !

Though parting be a fretful corrosive,  
It is applied to a deathful wound.  
To France, sweet Suffolk : let me hear from thee ,  
For wheresoe'er thou art in this world's globe,

I'll have an Iris that shall find thee out.

*Suf.* I go.

*Mar.* And take my heart with thee.

*Suf.* A jewel, lock'd into the wofull'st cask

410

That ever did contain a thing of worth.

Even as a splitted bark, so sunder we :

This way fall I to death.

*Mar.* This way for me.

*Exeunt severally*

### SCENE III

{Enter the King, Salisbury, Warwick, to the Cardinal  
in bed}

[Enter King and Salisbury, and then the curtains be drawn,  
and the Cardinal is discovered in his bed, raving and  
staring as if he were mad]

*King* How fares my lord ? speak, Beaufort, to thy sovereign.

*Car* If thou be'st death, I'll give thee England's treasure,

Enough to purchase such another island,

So thou wilt let me live, and feel no pain.

*King*. Ah, what a sign it is of evil life,

Where death's approach is seen so terrible !

*War* Beaufort, it is thy sovereign speaks to thee.

*Car* Bring me unto my trial when you will.

KING HENRY VI—PART II

Died he not in his bed ? where should he die ?  
Can I make men live, whether they will or no ?      10  
O, torture me no more, I will confess.  
Alive again ? then show me where he is,  
I'll give a thousand pound to look upon him  
He hath no eyes, the dust hath blinded them.  
Comb down his hair , look, look, it stands upright,  
Like lime-twigs set to catch my winged soul.  
Give me some drink, and bid the apothecary  
Bring the strong poison that I bought of him.

*King* O thou eternal mover of the heavens,  
Look with a gentle eye upon this wretch !      20  
O beat away the busy meddling fiend,  
That lays strong siege unto this wretch's soul,  
And from his bosom purge this black despair !  
*War.* See, how the pangs of death do make him grin !  
*Sal.* Disturb him not, let him pass peaceably.

*King.* Peace to his soul, if God's good pleasure be !  
Lord cardinal, if thou think'st on heaven's bliss,  
Hold up thy hand, make signal of thy hope.  
He dies, and makes no sign. O God, forgive him !

*War.* So bad a death argues a monstrous life.      30

*King.* Forbear to judge, for we are sinners all.  
Close up his eyes, and draw the curtain close ;  
And let us all to meditation.      *Exeunt*

## Act Fourth

## SCENE I

*The coast of Kent*

*Alarum. Fight at sea. Ordnance goes off. Enter a Captain, +  
a Master, a Master's-Mate, Walter Whitmore, and  
others; with them Suffolk, and others, prisoners*

*Cap.* The gaudy, blabbing, and remorseful day  
 Is crept into the bosom of the sea;  
 And now loud-howling wolves arouse the jades  
 That drag the tragic melancholy night;  
 Who, with their drowsy, slow, and flagging wings,  
 Clip dead men's graves, and from their misty jaws  
 Breathe foul contagious darkness in the air.  
 Therefore bring forth the soldiers of our prize,  
 For whilst our pinnace anchors in the Downs,  
 Here shall they make their ransom on the sand,      10  
 Or with their blood stain this discoloured shore.  
 Master, this prisoner freely give I thee,  
 And thou that art his mate, make boot of this,  
 The other, Walter Whitmore, is thy share.  
*I.G.* What is my ransom, master? let me know.

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

*Master.* A thousand crowns, or else lay down your head.

*Mate* And so much shall you give, or off goes yours.

*Cap.* What, think you much to pay two thousand crowns,

And bear the name and port of gentlemen ?

Cut both the villains' throats, for die you shall :

The lives of those which we have lost in fight

Be counterpois'd with such a petty sum !

*i. G.* I 'll give it, sir, and therefore spare my life.

*2.G.* And so will I, and write home for it straight.

*Whi.* I lost mine eye in laying the prize aboard,

And therefore to revenge it, shalt thou die ;

*To Suffolk*

And so should these, if I might have my will.

*Cap.* Be not so rash, take ransom, let him live.

*Suf.* Look on my George, I am a gentleman ;

Rate me at what thou wilt, thou shalt be paid.

*W'hi.* And so am I ; my name is Walter Whitmore.

How now ? why start'st thou ? what, doth death  
affright ?

*Suf.* Thy name affrights me, in whose sound is death.

A cunning man did calculate my birth,

And told me that by water I should die :

Yet let not this make thee be bloody-minded ;

Thy name is Gualtier, being rightly sounded

*W'hi.* Gualtier or Walter, which it is, I care not :

Never yet did base dishonour blur our name,  
 But with our sword we wip'd away the blot ;  
 Therefore, when merchant-like I sell revenge,  
 Broke be my sword, my arms torn and defac'd,  
 And I proclaim'd a coward through the world !

40

*Suf.* Stay, Whitmore, for thy prisoner is a prince,  
 The Duke of Suffolk, William de la Pole.

*Wh.* The Duke of Suffolk, muffled up in rags ?

*Suf.* Ay, but these rags are no part of the duke :  
 [Jove sometime went disguis'd, and why not I

*Cap.* But Jove was never slain, as thou shalt be,

*Suf.* Obscure and lowly swain, King Henry's blood,  
 The honourable blood of Lancaster,

50

Must not be shed by such a jaded groom.

Hast thou not kiss'd thy hand and held my stirrup  
 Bare-headed plodded by my foot-cloth mule,  
 And thought thee happy when I shook my head ?

How often hast thou waited at my cup,  
 Fed from my trencher, kneel'd down at the board,  
 When I have feasted with Queen Margaret ?

Remember it, and let it make thee crest-fall'n,

Ay, and allay this thy abortive pride ;

60

How in our voiding-lobby hast thou stood

And duly waited for my coming forth ?

This hand of mine hath writ in thy behalf,

KING HENRY VI—PART II

And therefore shall it charm thy riotous tongue.  
Wh. Speak, captain, shall I stab the forlorn swain ?

Cap. First let my words stab him, as he hath me.

Suf. Base slave, thy words are blunt, and so art thou.

Cap. Convey him hence and on our long-boat's side  
Strike off his head.

Suf. Thou dar'st not, for thy own.

[Cap. Yes, Pole.

Suf. Pole !]

Cap. Pool, Sir Pool ? lord ! 70

Ay, kennel, puddle, sink, whose filth and dirt  
Troubles the silver spring where England drinks.

Now will I dam up this thy yawning mouth,  
For swallowing the treasure of the realm :

Thy lips, that kiss'd the queen, shall sweep the ground ;  
And thou that smil'dst at good Duke Humphrey's  
death,

Against the senseless winds shalt grin in vain,  
Who in contempt shall hiss at thee again :

And wedded be thou to the hags of hell,  
For daring to affy a mighty lord

Unto the daughter of a worthless king,  
Having neither subject, wealth, nor diadem.

By devilish policy art thou grown great,  
And, like ambitious Sylla, overgorg'd

80

With gobbets of thy mother's bleeding heart.  
 By thee Anjou and Maine were sold to France ;  
 The false revolting Normans thorough thee  
 Disdain to call us lord, and Picardy  
 Hath slain their governors, surpris'd our forts,  
 And sent the ragged soldiers wounded home.      90  
 The princely Warwick, and the Nevils all,  
 Whose dreadful swords were never drawn in vain,  
 As hating thee, are rising up in arms :  
 And now the house of York, thrust from the crow'w  
 By shameful murder of a guiltless king,  
 And lofty proud encroaching tyranny,  
 Burns with revenging fire, whose hopeful colours  
 Advance our half-fac'd sun, striving to shine ;  
 Under the which is writ ' Invitis nubibus.'  
 The commons here in Kent are up in arms,      100  
 And, to conclude, reproach and beggary  
 Is crept into the palace of our king,  
 And all by thee. Away ! convey him hence.

*Suf.* O that I were a god, to shoot forth thunder  
 Upon these paltry, servile, abject drudges !  
 Small things make base men proud : this villain  
 here,  
 Being captain of a pinnace, threatens more  
 Than Bargulus the strong Illyrian pirate.

KING HENRY VI—PART II

Drones suck not eagles' blood, but rob bee-hives :  
It is impossible that I should die  
By such a lowly vassal as thyself.  
Thy words move rage and not remorse in me :  
I go of message from the queen to France ;  
I charge thee waft me safely cross the Channel.

110

*Cap.* Walter,—

*Whi.* Come, Suffolk, I must waft thee to thy death.

*Suf.* *Gelidus timor occupat artus :* it is thee I fear.

†

*Whi.* Thou shalt have cause to fear before I leave thee.

What, are ye daunted now ? now will ye stoop.

*I.G.* My gracious lord, entreat him, speak him fair.

120

*Suf.* Suffolk's imperial tongue is stern and rough ;  
Us'd to command, untaught to plead for favour.

Far be it we should honour such as these

With humble suit : no, rather let my head  
Stoop to the block, than these knees bow to any,

Save to the God of heaven, and to my king ;

And sooner dance upon a bloody pole,

Than stand uncover'd to the vulgar groom.

True nobility is exempt from fear :

More can I bear than you dare execute.

130

*Cap.* Hale him away, and let him talk no more.

*Suf.* Come, soldiers, show what cruelty ye can,

That this my death may never be forgot !

Great men oft die by vile bezonians :  
 A Roman sworder, and banditto slave  
 Murder'd sweet Tully ; Brutus' bastard hand  
 Stabb'd Julius Cæsar ; savage islanders  
 Pompey the Great ; and Suffolk dies by pirates.

*Exeunt Whitmore and others with Suffolk*

*Cap.* And as for these whose ransom we have set,  
 It is our pleasure one of them depart : 140  
 Therefore come you with us, and let him go.

*Exeunt all but the First Gentleman*

*Re-enter Whitmore with Suffolk's body*

*Whi.* There let his head and lifeless body lie,  
 Until the queen his mistress bury it. *Exit:*  
*i G.* O barbarous and bloody spectacle !  
 His body will I bear unto the king :  
 If he revenge it not, yet will his friends ;  
 So will the queen, that living, held him dear.

*Exit with the body*

## SCENE II

*Blackheath*{*Enter Bevis and John Holland}*}[*Enter two of the Rebels with long staves*] †

*Bev.* Come and get thee a sword, though made of a lath ; they have been up these two days.

*Hol.* They have the more need to sleep now, then.

*Bev.* I tell thee, Jack Cade the clothier means to dress the commonwealth, and turn it, and set a new nap upon it.

*Hol.* So he had need, for 'tis threadbare. Well, I say it was never merry world in England since gentlemen came up.

*Bev.* O miserable age ! virtue is not regarded in handi-crafts-men. 10

*Hol.* The nobility think scorn to go in leather aprons.

*Bev.* Nay, more, the king's council are no good workmen.

*Hol.* True ; and yet it is said, 'labour in thy vocation', which is as much to say as, 'let the magistrates be labouring men,' and therefore should we be magistrates.

*Bev.* Thou hast hit it ; for there 's no better sign of a brave mind than a hard hand.

*Hol.* I see them ! I see them ! There 's Best's son, the tanner of Wingham,—

21

*Bev.* He shall have the skins of our enemies, to make dog's-leather of.

*Hol.* And Dick the butcher,—

*Bev.* Then is sin struck down like an ox, and iniquity's throat cut like a calf.

*Hol.* And Smith, the weaver—

*Bev.* Argo, their thread of life is spun.

*Hol.* Come, come, let 's fall in with them.

*Drum.* Enter *Cade, Dick Butcher, Smith the Weaver,*  
*and a Sawyer, with infinite numbers*

*Cade.* We John Cade, so term'd of our supposed father,—

30

*Dick. (aside)* Or rather, of stealing a cade of herrings.

*Cade.* For our enemies shall fall before us, inspir'd with the spirit of putting down kings and princes,—  
Command silence.

*Dick.* Silence !

*Cade.* My father was a Mortimer,—

*Dick. (aside)* He was an honest man, and a good brick-layer.

*Cade.* My mother a Plantagenet,—

*Dick. (aside)* I knew her well, she was a midwife.

40

*Cade.* My wife descended of the Lacies,—

KING HENRY VI—PART II

*Dick.* (*aside*) She was, indeed, a pedler's daughter, and sold many laces.

*Smith.* (*aside*) But now of late, not able to travel with her furr'd pack, she washes bucks here at home.

*Cade.* Therefore am I of an honourable house.

*Dick.* (*aside*) Ay, by my faith, the field is honourable, and there was he born, under a hedge ; for his father had never a house but the cage.

*Cade.* Valiant I am.

*Smith.* (*aside*) A' must needs, for beggary is valiant.

*Cade.* I am able to endure much.

*Dick.* (*aside*) No question of that ; for I have seen him whipp'd three market-days together.

*Cade.* I fear neither sword, nor fire.

*Smith.* (*aside*) He need not fear the sword, for his coat is proof.

*Dick.* (*aside*) But methinks he should stand in fear of fire, being burnt i' the hand for stealing of sheep.

*Cade.* Be brave, then, for your captain is brave, and vows reformation. There shall be in England seven half-penny loaves sold for a penny : the three-hoop'd pot shall have ten hoops, and I will make it felony to drink small beer : all the realm shall be in common, and in Cheapside shall my palfry go to grass : and when I am king, as king I will be,—

*All.* God save your majesty !

*Cade.* I thank you, good people—there shall be no money, all shall eat and drink on my score, and I will apparel them all in one livery, that they may 70 agree like brothers, and worship me their lord.

*Dick.* The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers.

*Cade.* Nay, that I mean to do. Is not this a lamentable thing, that of the skin of an innocent lamb should be made parchment ; that parchment, being scribbled o'er, should undo a man ? Some say the bee stings, but I say, 'tis the bee's wax , for I did but seal once to a thing, and I was never mine own man since How now ? who's there ?

*Enter some, bringing forward the Clerk of Chatham*

*Smith.* The clerk of Chatham : he can write and read 80 and cast accompt.

*Cade.* O monstrous !

*Smith.* We took him setting of boys' copies.

*Cade.* Here's a villain !

*Smith.* 'Has a book in his pocket with red letters in 't.

*Cade.* Nay then, he is a conjuror.

*Dick.* Nay, he can make obligations, and write court-hand.

*Cade.* I am sorry for 't : the man is a proper man, of mine honour ; unless I find him guilty, he shall not

KING HENRY VI—PART II

die. Come hither, sirrah, I must examine thee: 90  
what is thy name?

*Clerk.* Emmanuel.

*Dick.* They use to write it on the top of letters: 'twill  
go hard with you.

*Cade.* Let me alone. Dost thou use to write thy name?  
or hast thou a mark to thyself, like an honest plain-  
dealing man?

*Clerk.* Sir, I thank God, I have been so well brought up  
that I can write my name.

*All* He hath confess'd: away with him! he's a villain 100  
and a traitor.

*Cade.* Away with him, I say! hang him with his pen and  
ink-horn about his neck. *Exit one with the Clerk*

*Enter Michael*

*Mic.* Where's our general?

*Cade.* Here I am, thou particular fellow.

*Mic.* Fly, fly, fly! Sir Humphrey Stafford and his brother  
are hard by, with the king's forces.

*Cade.* Stand, villain, stand, or I'll fell thee down. He  
shall be encountered with a man as good as himself:  
he is but a knight, is a'?

*Mic.* No.

*Cade.* To equal him, I will make myself a knight presently.

110

(kneels) Rise up, Sir John Mortimer. (rises) Now have at him !

*Enter Sir Humphrey Stafford and his Brother with drum and soldiers*

*S. Sta.* Rebellious hinds, the filth and scum of Kent,  
Mark'd for the gallows, lay your weapons down,  
Home to your cottages ; forsake this groom :  
The king is merciful, if you revolt.

*W.S.* But angry, wrathful, and inclin'd to blood,  
If you go forward ; therefore yield, or die.

120

*Cade.* As for these silken-coated slaves, I pass, not :  
It is to you, good people, that I speak,  
Over whom, in time to come, I hope to reign ;  
For I am rightful heir unto the crown.

*S. Sta.* Villain, thy father was a plasterer,  
And thou thyself a shearman, art thou not ?

*Cade.* And Adam was a gardener.

*W.S.* And what of that ?

*Cade.* Marry, this : Edmund Mortimer, Earl of March,  
Married the Duke of Clarence' daughter, did he not ? 130

*S. Sta.* Ay, sir.

*Cade.* By her he had two children at one birth.

*W.S.* That's false.

*Cade.* Ay, there's the question ; but I say, 'tis true  
The elder of them, being put to nurse,

KING HENRY VI—PART II

Was by a beggar-woman stolen away,  
And, ignorant of his birth and parentage,  
Became a bricklayer when he came to age :  
His son am I, deny it, if you can.

*Dick.* Nay, 'tis too true, therefore he shall be king 140

*Smith.* Sir, he made a chimney in my father's house, and  
the bricks are alive at this day to testify it ; therefore  
deny it not.

*Sta.* And will you credit this base drudge's words,  
That speaks he knows not what ?

*All.* Ay, marry, will we ; therefore get ye gone.

*W.S.* Jack Cade, the Duke of York hath taught you this.

*Cade. (aside)* He lies, for I invented it myself.

Go to, sirrah, tell the king from me, that, for his  
father's sake, Henry the fifth, in whose time boys 150  
went to span-counter for French crowns, I am con-  
tent he shall reign, but I'll be protector over him.

*Dick.* And furthermore, we 'll have the Lord Say's head,  
for selling the dukedom of Maine.

*Cade.* And good reason ; for thereby is England main'd,  
and fain to go with a staff, but that my puissance  
holds it up. Fellow kings, I tell you that that Lord  
Say hath gelded the commonwealth, and made it an  
eunuch : and more than that, he can speak French,  
and therefore he is a traitor. 160

*Sta.* O, gross and miserable ignorance !

*Cade.* Nay, answer, if you can : the Frenchmen are our enemies ; go to, then, I ask but this : can he that speaks with the tongue of an enemy be a good counsellor, or no ?

*All.* No, no, and therefore we 'll have his head.

*W S.* Well, seeing gentle words will not prevail,  
Assail them with the army of the king.

*Sta* Herald, away, and throughout every town  
Proclaim them traitors that are up with Cade,      170  
That those which fly before the battle ends  
May, even in their wives' and children's sight,  
Be hang'd up for example at their doors :  
And you that be the king's friends, follow me.

*Exeunt the two Staffords, and soldiers*

*Cade.* And you that love the commons, follow me.

Now show yourselves men ; 'tis for liberty.  
We will not leave one lord, one gentleman :  
Spare none, but such as go in clouted shoon ,  
For they are thrifty honest men, and such  
As would (but that they dare not) take our parts.      180

*Dick.* They are all in order, and march toward us.

*Cade.* But then are we in order when we are most out of  
order. Come, march forward.      200 *Exeunt*

## SCENE III

*Another part of Blackheath*

*Alarums to the fight, wherein both the Staffords are slain.*

*Enter Cade and the rest*

*Cade.* Where's Dick, the butcher of Ashfoid?

*Dick.* Here, sir.

*Cade.* They fell before thee like sheep and oxen, and thou behavest thyself as if thou hadst been in thine own slaughter-house: therefore thus will I reward thee, the Lent shall be as long again as it is, and thou shalt have a licence to kill for a hundred lacking one.

*Dick.* I desire no more.

*Cade.* And, to speak truth, thou deserv'st no less. This monument of the victory will I bear (*putting on Sir Humphrey's brigandine*), and the bodies shall be † dragged at my horse heels till I do come to London, where we will have the mayor's sword borne before us.

*Dick.* If we mean to thrive and do good, break open the gaols and let out the prisoners.

*Cade.* Fear not that, I warrant thee. Come, let's march towards London.

*Exeunt*

## SCENE IV

*London. The palace*

*Enter the King with a supplication, and the Queen with Suffolk's head, the Duke of Buckingham and the Lord Say*

*Mar.* Oft have I heard that grief softens the mind,  
And makes it fearful and degenerate ;  
Think therefore on revenge, and cease to weep ;  
But who can cease to weep, and look on this ?  
Here may his head lie on my throbbing breast :  
But where 's the body that I should embrace ?

*Buc.* What answer makes your grace to the rebels' supplication ?

*King* I 'll send some holy bishop to entreat ;  
For God forbid so many simple souls  
Should perish by the sword ! And I myself,  
Rather than bloody war shall cut them short,  
Will parley with Jack Cade their general :  
But stay, I 'll read it over once again.

10

*Mar.* Ah, barbarous villains ! hath this lovely face  
Rul'd like a wandering planet over me,  
And could it not enforce them to relent,  
That were unworthy to behold the same ?

*King.* Lord Say, Jack Cade hath sworn to have thy head.

KING HENRY VI—PART II

*Say.* Ay, but I hope your highness shall have his.

20

*King* How now, madam ?

Still lamenting and mourning for Suffolk's death ?

I fear me, love, if that I had been dead,

Thou wouldest not have mourn'd so much for  
me.

*Mar.* No, my love, I should not mourn, but die for thee.

*Enter a Messenger*

*King.* How now ? what news ? why com'st thou in such  
haste ?

*Mes.* The rebels are in Southwark ; fly, my lord !

Jack Cade proclaims himself Lord Mortimer,

Descended from the Duke of Clarence' house,

And calls your grace usurper, openly,

And vows to crown himself in Westminster.

His army is a ragged multitude

Of hinds and peasants, rude and merciless :

Sir Humphrey Stafford and his brother's death

Hath given them heart and courage to proceed :

All scholars, lawyers, courtiers, gentlemen,

They call false caterpillars, and intend their death.

*King* O graceless men ! they know not what they do.

*Buc.* My gracious lord, retire to Killingworth,

Until a power be rais'd to put them down.

40

*Mar.* Ah, were the Duke of Suffolk now alive,

These Kentish rebels would be soon appeas'd'  
*King.* Lord Say, the traitors hate thee,

Therefore away with us to Killingworth.

*Say.* So might your grace's person be in danger,  
 The sight of me is odious in their eyes;  
 And therefore in this city will I stay,  
 And live alone as secret as I may.

*Enter another Messenger*

*Mes.* Jack Cade hath gotten London Bridge:

The citizens fly and forsake their houses:

50

The rascal people, thirsting after prey,  
 Join with the traitor, and they jointly swear  
 To spoil the city, and your royal court.

*Buc.* Then linger not, my lord, away, take horse.

*King.* Come, Margaret, God our hope will succour us.

*Mar.* My hope is gone, now Suffolk is deceas'd.

*King.* Farewell, my lord, trust not the Kentish rebels.

*Buc.* Trust nobody, for fear you be betray'd.

*Say.* The trust I have is in mine innocence,  
 And therefore am I bold and resolute.

*Exeunt* 60

KING HENRY VI—PART II

SCENE V

*London The Tower*

*Enter Lord Scales upon the Tower, walking. Then enter  
two or three Citizens below*

*Sca.* How now? is Jack Cade slain?

*I.C.* No, my lord, nor likely to be slain; for they have won the bridge, killing all those that withstand them: the lord mayor craves aid of your honour from the Tower to defend the city from the rebels.

*Sca.* Such aid as I can spare you shall command,  
But I am troubled here with them myself;  
The rebels have assay'd to win the Tower.  
But get you to Smithfield, and gather head,  
And thither I will send you Matthew Goffe;  
Fight for your king, your country, and your lives,  
And so, farewell, for I must hence again. *Exeunt*

SCENE VI

*London. Cannon Street*

*Enter Jack Cade and the rest, and strikes his staff  
on London-stone*

*Cade.* Now is Mortimer lord of this city. And here, sitting upon London-stone, I charge and command that, of the city's cost, the pissing-conduit run nothing but claret wine this first year of our reign? And now henceforward it shall be treason for any that calls me other than Lord Mortimer.

*Enter a Soldier, running*

*Sol.* Jack Cade, Jack Cade!

*Cade.* Knock him down there. *They kill him*

*Smith.* If this fellow be wise, he 'll never call ye Jack Cade more: I think he hath a very fair warning.

10

*Dick.* My lord, there 's an army gathered together in Smithfield.

*Cade.* Come, then, let 's go fight with them: but first, go and set London bridge on fire, and, if you can, burn down the Tower too. Come, let 's away.

*Exeunt*

## SCENE VII

*London. Smithfield**Alarums. Matthew Goffe is slain, and all the rest.**Then enter Jack Cade, with his company**Cade.* So, sirs, now go some and pull down the Savoy; others to the inns of court, down with them all.*Dick.* I have a suit unto your lordship.*Cade.* Be it a lordship, thou shalt have it for that word.*Dick.* Only that the laws of England may come out of your mouth.*Hol. (aside)* Mass, 'twill be sore law, then, for he was thrust in the mouth with a spear, and 'tis not whole yet.*Smith. (aside)* Nay, John, it will be stinking law, for his breath stinks with eating toasted cheese.*Cade.* I have thought upon it, it shall be so. Away, burn all the records of the realm, my mouth shall be the parliament of England.*Hol. (aside)* Then we are like to have biting statutes, unless his teeth be pull'd out.*Cade.* And henceforward all things shall be in common.*Enter a Messenger**Mes.* My lord, a prize, a prize! here's the Lord Say, which

sold the towns in France ; he that made us pay  
one and twenty fifteens, and one shilling to the 20  
pound, the last subsidy\*

*Enter George Bevis, with the Lord Say*

*Cade.* Well, he shall be beheaded for it ten times. Ah,  
thou say, thou serge, nay, thou buckram lord !  
now art thou within point-blank of our jurisdiction  
regal. What canst thou answer to my majesty for  
giving up of Normandy unto Mounsieur Basimecu,  
the dauphin of France ? Be it known unto thee by  
these presence, even the presence of Lord Mortimer,  
that I am the besom that must sweep the court clean  
of such filth as thou art. Thou hast most traitor-  
ously corrupted the youth of the realm in erecting  
a grammar school : and whereas before, our fore-  
fathers had no other books but the score and the  
tally, thou hast caused printing to be us'd, and  
contrary to the king, his crown and dignity, thou  
hast built a paper-mill. It will be proved to thy  
face that thou hast men about thee that usually talk  
of a noun and a verb, and such abominable words  
as no Christian ear can endure to hear. Thou hast  
appointed justices of peace, to call poor men before  
them about matters they were not able to answer.  
Moreover, thou hast put them in prison, and because 40  
30

KING HENRY VI—PART II

they could not read, thou hast hang'd them, when,  
indeed, only for that cause they have been most  
worthy to live. Thou dost ride in a foot-cloth,  
dost thou not?

*Say.* What of that?

*Cade.* Marry, thou ought'st not to let thy horse wear a  
cloak, when honester men than thou go in their  
hose and doublets.

*Dick.* And work in their shirt too, as myself for example,  
that am a butcher.

50

*Say.* You men of Kent,—

*Dick.* What say you of Kent?

*Say.* Nothing but this ; 'tis *bona terra mala gens.*

{*Cade.* Away with him, away with him, he speaks Latin !}

[*Ca. Bonum terrum,* zounds, what's that ?

*Di.* He speaks French.

*Wi.* No, 'tis Dutch.

*Ni.* No, 'tis Outalian, I know it well enough.]

*Say.* Hear me but speak, and bear me where you will.

Kent, in the Commentaries Cæsar writ,

Is term'd the civil'st place of all this isle :

Sweet is the country, because full of riches ;

The people liberal, valiant, active, wealthy,

Which makes me hope you are not void of pity.

I sold not Maine, I lost not Normandy,

60

Yet to recover them would lose my life.  
 Justice with favour have I always done,  
 Prayers and tears have mov'd me, gifts could never.  
 When have I aught exacted at your hands,  
 But to maintain the king, the realm, and you ?  
 Large gifts have I bestow'd on learned clerks,  
 Because my book preferr'd me to the king, 70  
 And seeing ignorance is the curse of God,  
 Knowledge the wing wherewith we fly to heaven.  
 Unless you be possess'd with devilish spirits,  
 You cannot but forbear to murder me :  
 This tongue hath parley'd unto foreign kings  
 For your behoof,—.

*Cade.* Tut, when struck'st thou one blow in the field ?

*Say.* Great men have reaching hands : oft have I struck  
 Those that I never saw, and struck them dead.

*Geo.* O monstrous coward ! what, to come behind folks ? 80

*Say.* These cheeks are pale for watching for your good.

*Cade.* Give him a box o' the ear, and that will make 'em  
 red again.

*Say.* Long sitting to determine poor men's causes  
 Hath made me full of sickness and diseases.

*Cade.* Ye shall have a hempen caudle then, and the help  
 of hatchet.

*Dick.* Why dost thou quiver, man ?

KING HENRY VI—PART II

*Say.* The palsy, and not fear, provokes me.

*Cade.* Nay, he nods at us, as who should say, I 'll be even 90  
with you : I 'll sec if his head will stand steadiel on a  
pole, or no. Take him away, and behead him.

*Say* Tell me, wherein have I offended most ?

Have I affected wealth, or honour ? speak.

Are my chests fill'd up with extorted gold ?

Is my apparel sumptuous to behold ?

Whom have I injur'd, that ye seek my death ?

These hands are free from guiltless blood-shedding,  
This breast from harbouring foul deceitful thoughts.

O, let me live !

100

*Cade. (aside)* I feel remorse in myself with his words ; but  
I 'll bridle it : he shall die, an it be but for pleading  
so well for his life. Away with him ! he has a  
familiar under his tongue, he speaks not a' God's  
name. Go, take him away, I say, and strike off his  
head presently, and then break into his son-in-law's  
house, Sir James Cromer, and strike off his head,  
and bring them both upon two poles hither.

*All.* It shall be done.

*Say.* Ah, countrymen ! if when you make your prayers, 110  
God should be so obdurate as yourselves,  
How would it fare with your departed souls ?  
And therefore yet relent, and save my life.

*Cade.* Away with him, and do as I command ye.

*Exeunt some with Lord Say*

The proudest peer in the realm shall not wear a head  
on his shoulders, unless he pay me tribute ; there  
shall not a maid be married, but she shall pay to me  
her maidenhead ere they have it : men shall hold of  
me in capite ; and we charge and command that their  
wives be as free as heart can wish or tongue can tell. 120

*Dick.* My lord, when shall we go to Cheapside, and take  
up commodities upon our bills ?

*Cade.* Marry, presently.

*All.* O, brave !

*Re-enter one with the heads*

*Cade.* But is not this braver ? Let them kiss one another ;  
for they lov'd well when they were alive. Now part  
them again, lest they consult about the giving up of  
some more towns in France. Soldiers, defer the  
spoil of the city until night : for with these borne  
before us, instead of maces, will we ride through the 130  
streets, and at every corner have them kiss. Away !

*Exeunt*

## SCENE VIII

*Southwark*

*Alarum and retreat* Enter Cade and all his rabblement  
 Cade. Up Fish Street ! down Saint Magnus' Corner !  
 kill and knock down ! throw them into Thames !  
*(Sound a parley.)* What noise is this I hear ? Dare  
 any be so bold to sound retreat or parley, when I  
 command them kill ?

*Enter Buckingham and Clifford, attended*

Buc. Ay, here they be that dare and will disturb thee :  
 Know, Cade, we come ambassadors from the king  
 Unto the commons, whom thou hast misled,  
 And here pronounce free pardon to them all,  
 That will forsake thee, and go home in peace.

Chi. What say ye, countrymen ? will ye relent,  
 And yield to mercy whilst 'tis offer'd you,  
 Or let a rabble lead you to your deaths ?  
 Who loves the king, and will embrace his pardon,  
 Fling up his cap, and say ' God save his majesty ! '  
 Who hateth him, and honours not his father,  
 Henry the Fifth, that made all France to quake,  
 Shake he his weapon at us, and pass by.

10

†

*All.* God save the king ! God save the king !

*Cade.* What, Buckingham and Clifford, are ye so brave ? 20

And you, base peasants, do ye believe him ? will  
you needs be hang'd with your pardons about your  
necks ? Hath my sword therefore broke through  
London gates, that you should leave me at the  
White Hart in Southwark ? I thought ye would  
never have given out these arms till you had re-  
covered your ancient freedom : but you are all  
recrants and dastards, and delight to live in slavery  
to the nobility. Let them break your backs with  
burthens, take your houses over your heads, ravish  
your wives and daughters before your faces : for  
me, I will make shift for one, and so, God's curse  
light upon you all ! 30

*All.* We 'll follow Cade, we 'll follow Cade !

*Ch.* Is Cade the son of Henry the Fifth,

That thus you do exclaim you 'll go with him ?  
Will he conduct you through the heart of France,  
And make the meanest of you earls and dukes ?  
Alas, he hath no home, no place to fly to , .  
Nor knows he how to live, but by the spoil,  
Unless by robbing of your friends and us.  
Were 't not a shame, that whilst you live at jar,  
The fearful French, whom you late vanquished,

40

Should make a start o'er seas, and vanquish you ?  
 Methinks already in this civil broil  
 I see them lording it in London streets,  
 Crying ' Villago ! ' unto all they meet.  
 Better ten thousand base-born Cades miscarriy,  
 Than you should stoop unto a Frenchman's mercy.  
 To France, to France, and get what you have lost ;      50  
 Sparc England, for it is your native coast :  
 Henry hath money, you are strong and manly ;  
 God on our side, doubt not the victory.

*All.* A Clifford ! a Clifford ! we 'll follow the king, and Clifford.

*Cade.* Was ever feather so lightly blown to and fro as this multitude ? The name of Henry the Fifth hales them to an hundred mischiefs, and makes them leave me desolate. I see them lay their heads together to surprise me. My sword make way for me, for here is no staying : in despite of the devils and hell, have through the very middest of you ! and heavens and honour be witness, that no want of resolution in me, but only my followers' base and ignominious treasons, makes me betake me to my heels.      60      *Exit*

*Buc.* What, is he fled ? Go some, and follow him,  
 And he that brings his head unto the king

Shall have a thousand crowns for his reward.

*Exeunt some of them*

Follow me, soldiers : We'll devise a mean 70  
To reconcile you all unto the king. *Exeunt*

### SCENE IX

*Kenilworth Castle*

*Sound trumpets.* Enter King, Queen, and Somerset,  
on the terrace

King. Was ever king that joy'd an earthly throne,  
And could command no more content than I ?  
No sooner was I crept out of my cradle  
But I was made a king, at nine months old.  
Was never subject long'd to be a king  
As I do long and wish to be a subject.

*Enter Buckingham and Clifford*

Buc. Health and glad tidings to your majesty !

King. Why, Buckingham, is the traitor Cade surpris'd ?  
Or is he but retir'd to make him strong ?

*Enter, below, multitudes, with halters about their necks*

Cli. He is fled, my lord, and all his powers do yield, 10  
And humbly thus with halters on their necks,  
Expect your highness' doom, of life or death.

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

*King.* Then, heaven, set ope thy everlasting gates,  
To entertain my vows of thanks and praise !  
Soldiers, this day have you redeem'd your lives,  
And show'd how well you love your prince and  
country :

Continue still in this so good a mind,  
And Henry, though he be unfortunate,  
Assure yourselves, will never be unkind  
And so, with thanks, and pardon to you all,  
I do dismiss you to your several countries.

*All.* God save the king ! God save the king !

*Enter, a Messenger*

*Mes.* Please it your grace to be advertised  
The Duke of York is newly come from Ireland,  
And with a puissant and a mighty power  
Of gallowglasses and stout kerns  
Is marching hitherward in proud array,  
And still proclaimeth, as he comes along,  
His aims are only to remove from thee  
The Duke of Somerset, whom he terms a traitor.

*King.* Thus stands my state, 'twixt Cade and York dis-  
tress'd,  
Like to a ship that, having 'scap'd a tempest,  
Is straightway calm'd, and boarded with a pirate :  
But now is Cade driven back, his men dispers'd ;

And now is York in arms, to second him.  
 I pray thee, Buckingham, go and meet him,  
 And ask him what's the reason of these arms.  
 Tell him, I'll send Duke Edmund to the Tower,  
 And, Somerset, we will commit thee thither,  
 Until his army be dismiss'd from him.

40

*Som.* My lord,

I'll yield myself to prison willingly,  
 Or unto death, to do my country good.

*King.* In any case, be not too rough in terms,

For he is fierce, and cannot brook hard language.

*Buc.* I will, my lord, and doubt not so to deal

As all things shall redound unto your good.

*King.* Come, wife, let's in, and learn to govern better,

For yet may England curse my wretched reign.

*Flourish. Exeunt*

#### SCENE X

*Kent. Iden's garden*

*Enter Cade*

*Cade.* Fie on ambition! fie on myself, that have a sword,  
 and yet am ready to famish! These five days have  
 I hid me in these woods, and durst not peep out,

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

for all the country is laid for me ; but now am I so hungry that if I might have a lease of my life for a thousand years I could stay no longer. Wherefore on a brick wall have I climb'd into this garden, to see if I can eat grass, or pick a sallet another while, which is not amiss to cool a man's stomach this hot weather : and I think this word 'sallet' was born to do me good : for many a time, but for a sallet, my brain-pan had been cleft with a brown bill ; and many a time when I have been dry, and bravely marching, it hath serv'd me instead of a quart pot to drink in ; and now the word 'sallet' must serve me to feed on.

10

### *Enter Iden*

*Iden.* Lord, who would live turmoiled in the court,  
And may enjoy such quiet walks as these ?  
This small inheritance my father left me  
Contenteth me, and worth a monarchy.  
I seek not to wax great by others' waning,  
Or gather wealth I care not with what envy :  
Sufficeth that I have maintains my state,  
And sends the poor well pleased from my gate.

20

*Cade.* Here 's the lord of the soil come to seize me for  
a stray, for entering his fee-simple without leave.  
Ah, villain, thou wilt betray me, and get a thousand

crowns of the king by carrying my head to him :  
 but I 'll make thee eat iron like an ostrich, and  
 swallow my sword like a great pin, ere thou and 30  
 I part.

*Iden.* Why, rude companion, whatsoe'er thou be,  
 I know thee not, why then should I betray thee ?  
 Is 't not enough to break into my garden,  
 And like a thief to come to rob my grounds,  
 Climbing my walls in spite of me the owner,  
 But thou wilt bave me with these saucy terms ?

*Cade.* Brave thee ? ay, by the best blood that ever was  
 broach'd, and beard thee too. Look on me well :  
 I have eat no meat these five days, yet, come thou 40  
 and thy five men, and if I do not leave you all as  
 dead as a door-nail, I pray God I may never eat  
 grass more.

*Iden.* Nay, it shall ne'er be said, while England stands,  
 That Alexander Iden, an esquire of Kent,  
 Took odds to combat a poor famish'd man.  
 Oppose thy steadfast gazing eyes to mine,  
 See if thou canst outface me with thy looks ;  
 Set limb to limb, and thou art far the lesser ;  
 Thy hand is but a finger to my fist, 50  
 Thy leg a stick compared with this truncheon,  
 My foot shall fight with all the strength thou hast ;

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

And if mine arm be heaved in the air,  
Thy grave is digg'd already in the earth.

As for words, whose greatness answers words,  
Let this my sword report what speech forbears.

*Cade.* By my valour, the most complete champion that ever I heard ! Steel, if thou turn the edge, or cut not out the burly-bon'd clown in chines of beef, ere thou sleep in thy sheath, I beseech God on my knees thou mayst be turn'd to hobnails.

" *Here they fight.* *Cade falls*

O, I am slain ! famine and no other hath slain me : let ten thousand devils come against me, and give me but the ten meals I have lost, and I 'ld defy them all. Wither, garden, and be henceforth a burying-place to all that do dwell in this house, because the unconquered soul of Cade is fled.

*Iden.* Is 't Cade that I have slain, that monstrous traitor ?  
Sword, I will hallow thee for this thy deed,  
And hang thee o'er my tomb when I am dead :  
Ne'er shall this blood be wiped from thy point,  
But thou shalt wear it as a herald's coat,  
To emblaze the honour that thy master got.

*Cade.* Iden, farewell, and be proud of thy victory. Tell Kent from me, she hath lost her best man, and exhort all the world to be cowards ; for I, that

60

7C

never feared any, am vanquished by famine, not By  
valour.

*Dies*

*Iden.* How much thou wrong'st me, heaven be my judge.  
Die, damned wretch, the curse of her that bare thee ; 80  
And as I thrust thy body in with my sword,  
So wish I, I might thrust thy soul to hell.  
Hence will I drag thee headlong by the heels  
Unto a dunghill, which shall be thy grave,  
And there cut off thy most ungracious head :  
Which I will bear in triumph to the king,  
Leaving thy trunk for crows to feed upon.      *Exit*

## Act Fifth

## SCENE I

*Fields between Dartford and Blackbeath**Enter York, and his army of Irish, with drum  
and colours*

*Yo.* From Ileland thus comes York to claim his right,  
And pluck the crown from feeble Henry's head :  
Ring, bells, aloud, burn, bonfires, clear and bright,  
To entertain great England's lawful king.

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

Ah ! *santa majestas*, who would not buy thee dear ?  
Let them obey, that know not how to rule ;  
This hand was made to handle nought but gold.  
I cannot give due action to my words,  
Except a sword or sceptre balance it :  
A sceptre shall it have, have I a soul,  
On which I'll toss the flower-de-luce of France.

10

*Enter Buckingham*

- Whom have we here ? Buckingham, to disturb me ?  
The king hath sent him, sure : I must dissemble.
- Buc.* York, if thou meanest well, I greet thee well.
- Yo.* Humphrey of Buckingham, I accept thy greeting.  
Art thou a messenger, or come of pleasure ?
- Buc.* A messenger from Henry, our dread liege,  
To know the reason of these arms in peace ;  
Or why thou, being a subject as I am,  
Against thy oath, and true allegiance sworn,  
Should raise so great a power without his leave ?  
Or dare to bring thy force so near the court ?
- Yo.* (*aside*) Scarce can I speak, my choler is so great.  
O, I could hew up rocks, and fight with flint,  
I am so angry at these abject terms ;  
And now, like Ajax Telamonius,  
On sheep or oxen could I spend my fury.  
I am far better born than is the king ,

20

†

More like a king, more kingly in my thoughts :

But I must make fair weather yet a while,

30

Till Henry be more weak, and I more strong.—

Buckingham, I prithee pardon me,

That I have given no answer all this while ;

My mind was troubled with deep melancholy.

The cause why I have brought this army hither

Is to remove proud Somerset from the king,

Seditious to his grace and to the state.

*Buc.* That is too much presumption on thy part :

But if thy arms be to no other end,

The king hath yielded unto thy demand .

40.

The Duke of Somerset is in the Tower.

*Yo.* Upon thine honour, is he prisoner ?

*Buc.* Upon mine honour, he is prisoner.

*Yo.* Then, Buckingham, I do dismiss my powers.

Soldiers, I thank you all ; disperse yourselves ;

Meet me to-morrow in Saint George's field,

You shall have pay, and every thing you wish.

And let my sovereign, virtuous Henry,

Command my eldest son, nay, all my sons,

As pledges of my fealty and love ;

50

I'll send them all as willing as I live :

Lands, goods, horse, armour, any thing I have,

Is his to use, so Somerset may die.

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

Buc. York, I commend this kind submission ;  
We twain will go into his highness' tent.

*Enter King and Attendants*

King. Buckingham, doth York intend no harm to us,  
That thus he marcheth with thee arm in arm ?

Yo. In all submission and humility  
York doth present himself unto your highness.

King. Then what intends these forces thou dost bring ?

Yo. To heave the traitor Somerset from hence,  
And fight against that monstrous rebel Cade,  
Who since I heard to be discomfited.

*Enter Idep, with Cade's head*

Iden. If one so rude, and of so mean condition,  
May pass into the presence of a king,  
Lo, I present your grace a traitor's head,  
The head of Cade, whom I in combat slew.

King. The head of Cade ? Great God, how just art Thou !  
O, let me view his visage, being dead,

That living wrought me such exceeding trouble.

[A visage stern, coal-black his cutled locks,  
Deep-trenched furrows in his frowning brow,  
Presageth warlike humours in his life.]

Tell me, my friend, art thou the man that slew him ?

Iden. I was, an't like your majesty.

King. How art thou call'd ? and what is thy degree ?

*Iden.* Alexander Iden, that's my name ;

A poor esquire of Kent, that loves his king.

*Buc.* So please it you, my lcrd, 'twere not amiss  
He were created knight for his good service.

*King.* Iden, kneel down. (*He kneels.*) Rise up a knight  
We give thee for reward a thousand marks, †  
And will that thou henceforth attend on us. 80

*Iden.* May Iden live to merit such a bounty,  
And never live but true unto his liege ! Rises

*Enter Queen and Somerset*

*King.* See, Buckingham, Somerset comes with the queen :  
Go, bid her hide him quickly from the duke.

*Mar.* For thousand Yorks he shall not hide his head,  
But boldly stand and front him to his face.

*Yo.* How now ? is Somerset at liberty ?  
Then, York, unloose thy long-imprison'd thoughts,  
And let thy tongue be equal with thy heart.

Shall I endure the sight of Somerset ? 90

False king, why hast thou broken faith with me,  
Knowing how hardly I can brook abuse ?

King did I call thee ? no, thou art not king.  
Not fit to govern and rule multitudes,  
Which dar'st not, no, nor canst not rule a traitor.  
That head of thine doth not become a crown ;  
Thy hand is made to grasp a palmer's staff,

KING HENRY VI—PART II

Ahd not to grace an awful princely sceptic.  
That gold must round engirt these brows of mine,  
Whose smile and frown, like to Achilles' spear,      100  
Is able with the change to kill and cure.  
Here is a hand to hold a sceptre up,  
And with the same to act controlling laws.  
Give place : by heaven, thou shalt rule no more  
O'er him whom heaven created for thy ruler.  
*Som.* O monstrous traitor ! I arrest thee, York,  
Of capital treason 'gainst the king and crown .  
Obey, audacious traitor, kneel for grace.  
*Yo.* Wouldst have me kneel ? first let me ask of these,  
If they can brook I bow a knee to man.      110  
Sirrah, call in my sons to be my bail :

*Exit Attendant*

I know, ere they will have me go to ward,  
They 'll pawn their swords for my enfranchisement.  
*Mar.* Call hither Clifford, bid him come amain,  
To say if that the bastard boys of York  
Shall be the surety for their traitor father.

*Exit Buckingham*

*Yo.* O blood-bespotted Neapolitan,  
Outcast of Naples, England's bloody scourge !  
The sons of York, thy betters in their birth,  
Shall be their father's bail, and bane to those      120

That for my surety will confuse the boys !

*Enter Edward and Richard*

See where they come, I'll warrant they'll make it good.

*Enter Chfford and his son*

*Mar.* And here comes Clifford to deny their bail.

*Ch.* Health and all happiness to my lord the king !

*Kneels*

*Yo.* I thank thee, Clifford : say, what news with thee ?

Nay, do not fright us with an angry look :

We are thy sovereign, Clifford, kneel again ;

For thy mistaking so, we pardon thee.

*Ch.* This is my king, York, I do not mistake,

But thou mistakes me much to think I do .

130

To Bedlam with him ! is the man grown mad

*King.* Ay, Clifford, a bedlam and ambitious humour

Makes him oppose himself against his king.

*Chi* He is a traitor, let him to the Tower,

And chop away that factious pate of his.

*Mar.* He is arrested, but will not obey ;

His sons, he says, shall give their words for him.

*Yo.* Will you not, sons ?

*Edw.* Ay, noble father, if our words will serve.

*Ric.* And if words will not, then our weapons shall.

140

*Ch.* Why, what a brood of traitors have we here !

KING HENRY VI—PART II

Yo. Look in a glass, and call thy image so :  
I am thy king, and thou a false-heart traitor.  
Call hither to the stake my two brave bears,  
That with the very shaking of their chains  
They may astonish these fell-lurking curs :  
Bid Salisbury and Warwick come to me.

*Enter the Earls of Warwick and Salisbury*

Cli. Are these thy bears ? we 'll bait thy bears to death,  
And manacle the bear-ward in their chains,  
If thou dar'st bring them to the baiting-place. 150

Ric. Oft have I seen a hot o'erweening cur  
Run back and bite, because he was withheld,  
Who, being suffer'd with the bear's fell paw,  
Hath clapp'd his tail between his legs and cried ;  
And such a piece of service will you do,  
If you oppose yourselves to match Lord Warwick.

Cli. Hence, heap of wrath, foul indigested lump,  
As crooked in thy manners as thy shape !

Yo. Nay, we shall heat you thoroughly anon.

Cli. Take heed, lest by your heaf you burn yourselves. 160

King. Why, Warwick, hath thy knee forgot to bow ?  
Old Salisbury, shame to thy silver hair,  
Thou mad misleader of thy brain-sick son !  
What, wilt thou on thy death-bed play the ruffian,  
And seek for sorrow with thy spectacles ?

O, where is faith? O, where is loyalty?  
 If it be banish'd from the frosty head,  
 Where shall it find a h̄bhour in the earth?  
 Wilt thou go dig a grave to find out war,  
 And shame thine honourable age with blood? 170  
 Why art thou old, and want'st experience?  
 Or wherefore dost abuse it, if thou hast it?  
 For shame, in duty bend thy knee to me,  
 That bows unto the grave with mickle age.

*Sal.* My lord, I have consider'd with myself  
 The title of this most renowned duke,  
 And in my conscience do repute his grace  
 The rightful heir to England's royal seat.

*King.* Hast thou not sworn allegiance unto me?

*Sal.* I have. 180

*King.* Canst thou dispense with heaven for such an  
 oath?

*Sal.* It is great sin to sweai unto a sin,  
 But greater sin to keep a sinful oath.  
 Who can be bound by any solemn vow  
 To do a murderous deed, to rob a man,  
 To force a spotless virgin's chastity,  
 To reave the orphan of his patrimony,  
 To wring the widow from her custom'd right,  
 And have no other reason for this wrong,

KING HENRY VI—PART II

But that he was bound by a solemn oath ?

190

*Mar.* A subtle traitor needs no sophister.

*King.* Call Buckingham, and bid him arm himself.

*Yo.* Call Buckingham, and all the friends thou hast,

I am resolv'd for death or dignity

*Cl.* The first I warrant thee, if dreams prove true.

*War.* You were best to go to bed, and dream again,

To keep thee from the tempest of the field.

*Cl.* I am resolv'd to bear a greater storm

"Than any thou canst conjure up to-day ;

And that I'll write upon thy burgonet,

Might I but know thee by thy household badge.

200

*War.* Now, by my father's badge, old Nevil's crest,

The rampant bear chain'd to the ragged staff,

This day I'll wear aloft my burgonet,

As on a mountain top the cedar shows

That keeps his leaves in spite of any storm,

Even to affright thee with the view thereof.

*Cl.* And from thy burgonet I'll rend thy bear,

And tread it under foot with all contempt,

Despite the bear-ward that protects the bear

210

*Y.C.* And so to arms, victorious father,

To quell the rebels and their complices

*Ric.* Fie ! charity, for shame ! speak not in spite,

For you shall sup with Jesu Christ to-night.

*Y.C.* Foul stigmatic, that's more than thou canst tell.  
*Ric.* If not in heaven, you'll surely sup in hell.

*Exeunt severally*

SCENE II

*Saint Alban's*

*Alarums to the battle. Enter Warwick*

*War.* Clifford of Cumberland, 'tis Warwick calls :

And if thou dost not hide thee from the bear,  
 Now, when the angry trumpet sounds alarum,  
 And dead men's cries do fill the empty air,  
 Clifford, I say, come forth and fight with me :  
 Proud northern lord, Clifford of Cumberland,  
 Warwick is hoarse with calling thee to arms.

*Enter York*

How now, my noble lord ? what, all a-foot ?

*Yo.* The deadly-handed Clifford slew my steed,  
 But match to match I have encounter'd him,  
 And made a prey for carrion kites and crows,  
 Even of the bonny beast he lov'd so well.

10

*Enter Clifford*

*War.* Of one or both of us the time is come.

*Yo.* Hold, Warwick, seek thee out some other chase,

KING HENRY VI—PART II

Fo. I myself must hunt this deer to death.

War. Then, nobly, York, 'tis for a crown thou fight'st.

As I intend, Clifford, to thrive to-day,

It grieves my soul to leave thee unassail'd.      *Exit*

Ch. What seest thou in me, York? why dost thou  
pause?

Yo. With thy brave bearing should I be in love,  
But that thou art so fast mine enemy.

20

Ch. Nor should thy prowess want praise and esteem  
'But that 'tis shown ignobly, and in treason.

Yo. So let it help me now against thy sword,  
As I in justice and true right express it.

Ch. My soul and body on the action both!

Yo. A dreadful lay! Address thee instantly.

*They fight, and Clifford falls*

Cli. *La fin couronne les œuvres.*

Dies

Yo. Thus war hath given thec peace, for thou art still;  
Peace with his soul, heaven, if it be thy will!    *Exit*

30

*Enter young Clifford*

Y.C. Shame and confusion! all is on the rout;  
Fear frames disorder, and disorder wounds  
Whcre it should guard. O war, thou son of hell,  
Whom angry heavens do make their minister,  
Throw in the frozen bosoms of our part  
Hot coals of vengeance! Let no soldier fly.

He that is truly dedicate to war  
 Hath no self-love ; nor he that loves himself  
 Hath not essentially but by circumstance  
 The name of valour. (*Seeing his dead father*) O<sup>†</sup>, let  
 the vile world end, 40  
 And the premised flames of the last day  
 Knit earth and heaven together !  
 Now let the general trumpet blow his blast,  
 Particularities and petty sounds  
 To cease ! Wast thou ordain'd, dear father,  
 To lose thy youth in peace, and to achieve  
 The silver livery of advised age,  
 And, in thy reverence, and thy chair-days, thus  
 To die in ruffian battle ? Even at this sight  
 My heart is turn'd to stone : and while 'tis mine, 50  
 It shall be stony. York not our old men spares ,  
 No more will I their babes : tears virginal  
 Shall be to me even as the dew to fire,  
 And beauty that the tyrant oft reclaims  
 Shall to my flaming wrath be oil and flax.  
 Henceforth I will not have to do with pity :  
 Meet I an infant of the house of York,  
 Into as many goblets will I cut it  
 As wild Medea young Absyrtus did :  
 In cruelty will I seek out my fame. 60

KING HENRY VI—PART II

Come, thou new ruin of old Clifford's house :  
As did Æneas old Anchises bear,  
So bear I thee upon my manly shoulders ;  
But then Æneas bare a living load,  
Nothing so heavy as these woes of mine.

*Exit, bearing off his father*

*Enter Richard and Somerset to fight. Somerset  
is killed*

Ric. So, lie thou there ;  
For underneath an alehouse' paltry sign,  
The Castle in Saint Alban's, Someiset  
Hath made the wizard famous in his death.  
Sword, hold thy temper ; heart, be wrathful still :      70  
Priests pray for enemies, but princes kill.      *Exit*

*Fight. Excursions Enter King, Queen, and  
others*

Mar. Away, my lord ! you are slow ; for shame, away !  
King. Can we outrun the heavens ? good Margaret, stay.  
Mar. What are you made of ? you 'll nor fight nor fly :  
Now is it manhood, wisdom, and defence,  
To give the enemy way, and to secure us  
By what we can, which can no more but fly.

*Alarum afar off*

If you be ta'en, we then should see the bottom  
Of all our fortunes : but if we haply scape,

(As well we may, if not through your neglect) 80  
 We shall to London get, where you are lov'd,  
 And where this breach now in our fortunes made  
 May readily be stopp'd.<sup>3</sup>

*Re-enter young Clifford*

*Y.C.* But that my heart's on future mischief set,  
 I would speak blasphemy ere bid you fly :  
 But fly you must ; uncurable discomfit  
 Reigns in the hearts of all our present parts.  
 Away, for your relief ! and we will live  
 To see their day, and them our fortune give :  
 Away, my lord, away !

*Exeunt* 90

### SCENE III

*Fields near St Alban's*

*Alarum. Retreat. Enter York, Richard, Warwick,  
 and Soldiers, with drum and colours*

*Yo.* Of Salisbury, who can report of him,  
 That winter lion, who in rage forgets  
 Aged contusions, and all brush of time,  
 And like a gallant, in the brow of youth,  
 Repairs him with occasion ? This happy day

KING HENRY VI—PART II

If not itself, 'nor have we won one foot,  
If Salisbury be lost.

Ric. My noble father,  
Three times to-day I holp him to his horse,  
Three times bestrid him ; thrice I led him off,  
Persuaded him from any further act :  
But still, where danger was, still there I met him,  
And like rich hangings in a homely house,  
So was his will, in his old feeble body.  
But, noble as he is, look where he comes.

*Enter Salisbury*

Sal. Now, by my sword, well hast thou fought to-day ,  
By the mass, so did we all. I thank you, Richard :  
God knows how long it is I have to live ;  
And it hath pleas'd him that three times to-day  
You have defended me from imminent death.  
Well, lords, we have not got that which we have :  
'Tis not enough our foes are this time fled,  
Being opposites of such repairing nature.  
Yo. I know our safety is to follow them,  
For, as I hear, the king is fled to London,  
To call a present court of pailiament.  
Let us pursue him ere the writs go forth.  
What says Lord Warwick ? shall we after them ?  
War. After them ! nay, before them, if we can.

Now, by my faith, lords, 'twas a glorious day .  
Saint Alban's battle won by famous York                           30  
Shall be eterniz'd in all age to come.  
Sound drums and trumpets, and to London all,  
And more such days as these to us befall !    *Exeunt*



## Notes

i. 232. Althaea, at the birth of her son Meleager, saw the Fates tinging a torch in the fire, saying that Meleager's life would last as long as the torch. She snatched it from the fire and preserved it. Ere she burned it, and Meleager wasted away. (See, amongst other places, Swinburne's *Atalanta in Calydon*.)

ii. 25-31. There is an interesting textual point here. These seven lines are represented in Q 1 by:

*This night when I was laid in bed I dreamt  
That this my staff, mine office badge in court,  
Was broke in two, and on the end were plac'd  
The heads of the Cardinal of Winchester,  
And William de la Pole, first Duke of Suffolk.*

In Q 3 the passage runs:

*This night when I was laid in bed I dreamt  
That this my staff, my office badge in court,  
Was broke in twain, by whom I cannot guess,  
But as I think by the Cardinal. What it bodes  
God knows, and on the ends were plac'd  
The heads of Edmund, Duke of Somerset,  
And William de la Pole, first Duke of Suffolk.*

ii. 61-69. These lines are represented by three and a half lines in Q 1:

*I'll come after you, for I cannot go before,  
But ere it be long I'll go before them all,  
Despite of all that seek to cross me thus;  
Who is within there?*

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

But Q<sub>3</sub> has.

*I'll come after you, for I cannot go before,  
As long as Gloster bears this base and humble mind:  
Were I a man, and Protecor as he is,  
I'd reach to the crown, or make some hop headless.  
And being but a woman, I'll not behind  
For playing of my part, in spite of all that seek to cross me thus.  
Who is within there?*

That is to say, that in these two passages Q<sub>3</sub> expands, and in one instance corrects, Q<sub>1</sub> so that the result is nearer to F. I am not clear that the possibly critical nature of this oddity has been sufficiently observed. For what are we to suppose that Jaggard's compositor had <sub>11</sub> front of him? He was almost certainly setting from a copy of Q<sub>1</sub>, or possibly Q<sub>2</sub> (which is no more than a rather careless replica of Q<sub>1</sub>). Either, then, he had a corrected copy of Q<sub>1</sub> before him, or he had some sort of a MS., since we can hardly suppose that he made up lines out of his head. If a copy of Q<sub>1</sub>, by what had it been corrected? Not I think by the MS., however that MS. had been put together, from which Q<sub>1</sub> had been set, since on examination it seems in the highest degree unlikely that a compositor who had before him a MS. correctly represented by Q<sub>3</sub> could have set it as Q<sub>1</sub>. The differences are not of the kind which result from careless composing. And if a MS., what sort of a MS.? For the same reason, not the 'reported' MS. (unless indeed it itself had been corrected subsequently to the printing of Q<sub>1</sub> from it), apart from the comparative improbability of that indifferent MS. having been preserved for twenty-five years. But also not the MS. from which in three years' time F was going to be set, since then we should have instead a rather nearer

approximation to F than Q 3 gives us. And in any case, if there was a MS., why do the amplifications of Q 1 'in the direction of' F occur only in two small passages in the second scene of the play? I do not venture to hazard a solution to the problem; that would need a much more careful collation of the texts as a whole than I have been able to conduct; but I wish to suggest that the problem is a real one, and might repay investigation.

I. ii. 82-86. I have given Q 1 here in full, since it is one of the few places in which Q 1 is fuller than F, and not only fuller but probably, more dramatic, because more specific. And it suggests that the 'reported text' view does not cover quite all the facts.

I. iii. 78. *She bears a duke's revenues . . .*; another oddity of Q 3. Q 1 has no sign of the line at all; Q 3 inserts something very near to it (*She bears a duke's whole revenues on her back*).

I. iii. 114-17. There is little to choose between the two remarks of Gloucester, but the Queen's retort seems more pointed in Q.

I. iii. 144. *most master*; if the reading is correct the phrase must mean 'the chief master,' i.e. the King, and the whole sentence means 'even though she, and not the king, has the regal power, she shall not. . .' But this is awkward, and Craig is perhaps right in thinking that a line has dropped.

I. iii. 148. *fume*; if it were not for the parallel in *Venus and Adonis*, 316, it would be tempting to cure the metre by reading *fury* (i.e. *furie*, for which *fume* would be an easy graphical error).

I. iv. 39. Here, instead of F's line and a half Q has some picturesque—and Marlowesque—stuff. On the 'foundation-play' view this has to be handled on the lines of 'This is a piece of Marlovian rant that has escaped the reviser' (Hart). On the 'Bad-Quarto' view it implies simply that the actor interpolated a bit of the stuff he was used to. And in fact it rounds off the scene not ineffectively.

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

I suspect that *sōns* in the last line (*sonnes* in Q) is an error for *zōnnas* (i.e. *sohnis* or *sonnes*)

I. iv. 62. *Aio te . . .*; the traditional answer of the oracle of Apollo to Pyrihus when he inquired whether he would beat the Romans. In the Latin it can mean either ‘I say that you can conquer the Romans,’ or ‘I say that the Romans can conquer you.’

II. i. 109. The Quarto passage may no doubt be just a bit of gag that was found effective on the stage.

II. ii. 67. The Q passage here, though no doubt hints of it occur elsewhere in F (the rose in I. i. 252 and the bear and ragged staff in V. i. 203), is one of those that makes me suspicious that there are more complications behind the transmission of the text than plain reporting.

II. iii. 11-13. The passage in Q is much better dramatically as a preparation for the Duchess’s entry, and avoids the slight awkwardness of *your country*, which turns out to be the Isle of Man.

II. iii. 89. Among the exploits of Bevis of Southampton, one of the favourite heroes of mediaeval romance, was the overthrow of the giant Ascapart, whom he made his squire.

II. iv. 81. *Entreat her not the worse . . .*, cf. *Troilus and Cressida*, IV. iv. 126.

III. i. 114. *my trial-day*; so F. & Q reads *the judgement-day*, which is surely much more forcible, since the doit and the groat certainly would be brought against him at his ‘trial-day.’

III. i. 192. *are gnarling*; Q reads *stand snarring*.

III. i. 226. *mournful crocodile*; the more usual notion of the crocodile is that ‘if he findeth a man . . . he slayeth him, if he may, and then he weepeth upon him and swalloweth him at the last’ (Trevisa’s translation of *Baitholome*). But this crocodile is

that of Hawkins' voyage of 1565 as narrated by Sparkes: 'His nature is ever when he would have his prey, to cry and sob like a Christian body, to provoke them to come to him, and then he snatches at them.'

III. i. 282-83. Instead of these two lines Q reads:

*The wild O'Neill, my lords, is up in arms,  
With troops of Irish kerns, that uncontroll'd  
Doth plant themselves within the English pale*

Cf. Marlowe, *Edward II.*

*The wild O'Neil with swarms of Irish kerns  
Lives uncontroll'd within the English pale.*

On the 'foundation-play' view this, of course, is a piece of Marlowe's work. But surely no writer of Marlowe's competence so nearly repeats himself, and it is much more likely to have been an actor's reminiscence.

III. ii. The staging of this in Q is different and interesting.

Then the curtains being drawn, Duke Humphrey is discovered in his bed, and two men lying on his breast and smothering him in his bed. And then enter the Duke of Suffolk to them.

Suffolk. *How now, sirs, what, have you dispatch'd him?*

One *Ay, my lord, he's dead, I warrant you.*

Suffolk. *Then see the clothes laid smooth about him still,*  
*That when the king comes he may perceive*  
*No other but that he died of his own accord.*

Two. *All things is handsome now, my lord.*

Suffolk. *Then draw the curtains again and get you gone,*

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

*And you shall have your firm reward anon.*

Exit murderers

Then enter the King and Queen . . .

III. ii. 26. *Nell*, an odd bit of carelessness, repeated by the Queen herself twice in the following speech, where at ll. 100 and 120 we find *Ehanor* and *Elinor*.

III. ii. 116 *Ascanius*, the son of *Aeneas*, see *Aeneid*, ii., though there it is *Aeneas* himself rather than his son who at the queen's bidding *renovat wifandrum dolorem* of the fall of Troy

III. ii. 192 *the bird was dead*, Q reads, more forcibly, I think *the bird came there*.

III. ii. 300. *Mischance and sorrow*, Q reads *Hell-fire and vengeance*.

III. ii. 310 *mandrake*, the mandrake root was supposed to look like a human figure and to shriek when pulled from the ground

III. ii. 315. *Envie*, one of the seven deadly sins (see *Faerie Queene*, I iv.). In Golding's *Ovid* we find Envie 'leane as any Rake' living in a 'foul and irksome cave.'

IV. i. (S D). For some reason F makes the Captain a Lieutenant.

IV. i. 48 Here, as will be seen, F has to be repaired from the despised Q, as it has again in l. 70.

IV. i. 117 *Gelidus* . . . , the nearest original that has been found is *Aeneid*, vii 446, *subit' tremor occupat artus*. Before *Gelidus* F mysteriously reads *Pme* (also in italics, as though part of the quotation).

IV. i. 135-38, the errors in the social position or genealogy of the slayers of Cicero, Cæsar, and Pompey are hardly worth pursuing

IV. ii. (S D). It will be noticed that Q gives no names to the rebels. F gives them names which are, one certainly, and the other very probably, names of actors. One J. Holland is given in the cast of the second part of *The Seven Deadly Sins* about 1590. But

in Q the rebels take names to themselves as soon as we come to the speech headings, and become George and Nick, and it is worth notice that in the cast mentioned there occurs also a Nick (though of course the name was blackberry-common, and he was there the player of a woman's part).

IV ii. 20. The Q list of names is much more helter-skelter, though none the less vigorous for that.

*Why there's Dick the butcher, and Robin the saddler,  
and Will that came a wooing our Nan last Sunday, and  
Harry and Tom, and Gregory that should have your  
Parnell, and a great sort more is come from Rochester  
and from Maidstone, and Canterbury, and all the towns  
hereabouts, and we must all be lords and squires, as soon  
as Jack Cade is king.*

IV iii. 11. *brigandine*; the stage-direction is not in the texts, but from Holinshed, and has been generally accepted. But Hart well points out that in Fabyan we have a *sallet* as well as a brigandine, and that in view of IV. x. the sallet would perhaps be more appropriate.

IV. vii. 26. *Basimecu*, this mysterious word is a representation of the French 'baisez mon cul' and is ( teste Bradley) still extant in Birmingham in the form *Bozzimecu* as a cheerful insult to organ-grinders. The Q reading is illuminating, *bus mine cue*.

IV. viii. 13. *rabble*, so F, usually emended to *rebel*, perhaps rightly.

V. i. 26. *Ajax*, after the award of Achilles' arms to Odysseus instead of to himself, Ajax went mad and killed sheep and oxen under the delusion that they were his enemies.

V. i. 79. *a thousand marks*; the reward had been announced at

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

1000 crowns. Henry by generosity, or Shakespeare by carelessness, almost trebled it. But in Q Henry is even more generous:

*And for thy maintenance I freely give  
A thousand marks a year to maintain thee,  
Beside the firm reward that was proclaim'd.*

V. ii. 59, 62. Medea, fleeing from Colchis with Jason, killed her brother Absyrtus, and threw the body piecemeal overboard to delay the pursuit. Aeneas carried his old father Anchises from the burning ruins of Troy.

## Glossary

MANY words and phrases in Shakespeare require glossing, not because they are in themselves unfamiliar, but for the opposite reason, that Shakespeare uses in their Elizabethan and unfamiliar sense a large number of words which seem so familiar that there is no incentive to look for them in the glossary. It is hoped that a glossary arranged as below will make it easy to see at a glance what words and phrases in any particular scene require elucidation. A number of phrases are glossed by what seems to be, in their context, the modern equivalent rather than by lexicographical glosses on the words which compose them.

### Act First

#### SCENE I

<i>line</i>	
3	PROCURATOR, proxy
28	ALDER-LIEFEST, dearest of all
103	CIRCUMSTANCE, full detail
161	GLOSS, veneer, pretence
167	HOISE, hoist

<i>line</i>	
189	PLAINNESS, frankness
	HOUSEKEEPING, hospitality
206	MAIN, main business
231	PROPORTION, relation

#### SCENE II

47	HAMMERING, devising
58	WHEREAS, where

107	SORR, turn out
-----	----------------

#### SCENE III

3	IN THE QUILL, in a body
38	CULLIONS, rascals
81	CALLET, drab
82	MINIONS, favourites
87	QUIRE, choir

87	ENTICING BIRDS, decoy-birds
88	LIGHT, alight
171	FACT, crime
209	DOOM, decision

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

## SCENE IV

*line*  
14 GEAR, business  
22 VERGE, circle

*line*  
46 CHARMING, of witchcraft

## Act Second

## SCENE I

1 FLYING AT THE BROOK, *i.e.* hawk-ing for water-birds  
24 TANTÆNE ANIMIS CÆLESTIBUS  
IPÆ? 'Is there such wrath in  
heavenly souls?'  
40 FACTIOUS NUMBERS, body of  
partisans  
53 FENCE, skill in fencing  
54 MEDICE, TEIPSUM, 'physician,  
(heal) thyself'

56 STOMACHS, anger  
99 BUT THAT IN ALL MY LIFE, the  
one thing I lived for ('It's  
what I did nothing but')  
131 CUNNING, skill  
134 BRADLES, parish-officers  
162 NAUGHTY, worthless  
LEWDLY, mischievously

## SCENE II

78 FOR WHI, because

## SCENE III

21 WOULD, wishes for  
43 RAUGHT, snatched away  
56 WORSE BESTED, 'in such a bad  
way'

62 CHARNECO, a kind of wine (*what  
kind is unknown*)

## SCENE IV

8 UNEARTH, scarcely  
10 A BROOK, endure  
31 MAIL'D, wrapped  
33 DEEP-FET, deep-fetched  
54 LIM'D, bird-limed

57 PREVENTION OF, to anticipate  
69 WORN, commonplace  
73 CLOSE, secret  
101 CONDUCTR, conductor

## Act Third

## SCENE I

*line*

- 51 BEDLAM, lunatic  
 74 FOND, foolish  
     AFFIANCE, trust  
 91 GEAR, business  
 105 STAY'D, held back  
 112, 113 DOIT, GROAT, small coins  
 126 SHOULD, used to  
 140 SUSPECT, suspicion  
 141 CONSCIENCE, instinct  
 149 PERIOD, end  
 155 CLOUDY, lowering  
 160 ACCUSE, accusation  
 164 LIEFEST, dearest  
 166 CONVENTICLES, meetings  
 178 TWIT, blamed  
 248 EMPTY, hungry  
 255 POSTED, hurried over  
 259 CHAPS, jaws  
 261 QUILLERS, quibbles (*quidlibet*)

*line*

- 262 GINS, snares  
 265 MATES, checkmates  
 277 TENDER, look after  
 281 SKILLS, matters  
     DOOM, decision  
     POST, messenger  
 282 AMAIN, 'all out'  
 287 GREEN, fresh  
 288 EXPEDIENT, immediate  
 293 FAR-FET, deed  
 300 CHARACTER'D, marked  
 310 KERNES, wild Irish soldiers  
     (light-armed)  
 311 TEMPER, moistened  
 340 REDIOUS, elaborate  
 354 FLAW, gust  
 363 PORPENTINE, porcupine  
 365 MORISCO, Morris-dancer

## SCENE II

- 20 STRAITER, more strictly  
 21 OF GOOD ESTEEM, trustworthy  
 22 APPROV'D IN PRACTICE CULPABLE,  
     proved to be involved in  
     treasonous plots  
 52 BASILISK, serpent supposed to  
     kill with glance of eye  
 66 HOLLOW, untrustworthy

- 83 AWKWARD, contrary  
 100 PERISH, *active*  
 111 BE PACKING, 'be off'  
 112 SPECTACLES, organs of sight  
 116 WITCH, bewitch  
 135 RUDE, uncouth  
 176 LODGED, laid low  
 178 PROBAEIE, full proof

## KING HENRY VI—PART II

### Act III Sc. ii—*continued*

<i>line</i>		<i>line</i>
191 PUTTOCK, kite		325 SMART, biting
214 CRAB-TREE, crab apple		333 BAN, curse
SLIP, cutting.		* LEAVE, cease
216 BUCKLERS, shields		350 ADVENTURE, risk
221 PASSED, uttered		408 IRIS, the messenger of the gods
263 MORTAL, fatal		412 SPLITTED BARK, ship foundering
312 CURST, malignant		on reef
318 AN END, on end	e	

### SCENE III

16 LIME-TWIGS, bird-limed twigs

### Act Fourth

#### SCENE I

S D. ORDNANCE, cannon	71 KENNEL, gutter
3 JADES, tired steeds	77 SENSELESS, insensible
6 CLIP, embrace	80 AFFY, affiance
13 BOOT, profit	83 POLICY, intrigue
19 PORT, social position	87 THOROUGH, through
34 CUNNING, skilful	99 INVITIS NUBIBUS, against the will of the clouds
52 JADED, ignoble	112 REMORSE, yielding
54 FOOT-CLOTH, long ornamental caparison	13 OF MESSAGE, with a message
60 ABORIIVE, vain	134 BEZONIANS, beggars
61 VOIDING-LO BY, anteroom	

#### SCENE II

2 UP, up in arms	45 FURR'D, made of fur
28 ARGO, therefore ( <i>ergo</i> )	BUCKS, dirty linen
31 CADF, small barrel	49 CAGF, prison

# GLOSSARY

## Act IV Sc. ii—*continued*

<i>line</i>	<i>line</i>
69 SCORE, reckoning	118 REVOLT, turn back
87 OBLIGATIONS, contracts	121 PASS, care
COURT-HAND, one of the styles of Elizabethan handwriting	126 SHEARMAN, a shearer of cloth
105 PARTICULAR, individual ( <i>pun on</i> <i>'general'</i> )	151 SPAN-COUNTER, pitch and toss
112 PRESENTLY, on the spot	155 MAIN'D, maimed ( <i>old form</i> )
	178 CLOUTED, patched

## SCENE III

11 BRIGANDINE, coat of mail

## SCENE IV

37 CATERPILLARS, *as agents of de-*  
*struction* (cf. Joel 1. 4)

## SCENE VI

3 PISSING-CONDUIT, a small con-  
duit near the Royal Exchange

## SCENE VII

33-34 SCORE . . . TALLY, the two halves of the notched stick (kept respectively by debtor and creditor) by which reckonings were kept	70 PREFER'D ME TO, brought me to notice of
45 FOOT-CLOTH, long caparison of horse	86 CAUDLE, warm drink
53 BONA TERRA MALA GEN'S, a good land, evil race	119 IN CAPITE, 'in chief,' i.e. by direct grant from crown
	122 BILLS, pun on (i) bill-hooks, (ii) credit

# KING HENRY VI—PART II

## SCENE VIII

*line*

20 BRAVE, arrogant  
47 VILLAGO, rascal

*line*

70 A MEAN, means

## SCENE IX

26 GALLOWGLASSES, KERNES, heavy  
and light armed Irish soldiers

## SCENE X

4 LAID, on the watch

8 SALLET, salad

12 SALLET, steel helmet

12-13 BROWN BILL, hooked blade on  
varnished sta~~r~~

23 SUFFICETH THAT, it suffices that

what

37 BRAVE, challenge

## Act Fifth\*

### SCENE I

97 PALMER, pilgrim

153 SUFFER'D, hurt

200 BURGONET, light helmet

215 STIGMATIC, branded deformity

### SCENE II

41 PREMISED, foreordained

47 ADVISED, experienced

### SCENE III

3 AGED CONFUSIONS, old injuries  
BRUSH, blows

4 IN THE BROW OF, wearing the  
appearance of

22 REPAIRING NATURF, power of  
recovery

